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Helicopter crash kills six

BUCHAREST (AP) — A helicopter on an official mission in northern Romania crashed Friday, killing six people including two generals attached to the interior ministry, a ministry spokesman said. The two generals are Ion Eugen Sandu, secretary of state at the interior ministry, Ion Bunoica, commander of Romania's gendarmes. Colonel Mihai Alexe, a senior official in charge of the gendarmes, also died in the accident. The other three dead were the helicopter team. Interior Minister Doru Ioan Tarca, who is heading an inquiry into the accident, went to the crash site Friday.

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NATO, U.N. suspend attacks on Serbs in a bid to push peace plan

Jordan welcomes NATO operations against Serbs

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the United Nations called a temporary halt to their three-day aerial assault on Bosnian Serb military targets Friday to coax the battered Serbs to the peace table.

Major Panagiotis Theodorakis, a NATO spokesman in Naples, confirmed that the military alliance had "temporarily ceased conducting airstrikes while we and the U.N. assess the situation."

He warned that "our overall operation continues and NATO aircraft can recommence their strikes on order."

A Western diplomat in Sarajevo said the reprieve was intended to give the Serbs an opportunity to comply with demands to move their heavy weapons away from the Bosnian capital and to demonstrate that NATO is not taking sides in the war.

"The idea is to bomb them to the negotiating table, not to scare them away from it," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey called the decision "unacceptable."

In the predawn hours Friday, NATO warplanes and U.N. artillery hit Bosnian Serb targets for a third straight day. The bombing raids ceased three hours later.

Mr. Sacirbey said Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the U.N. commander for Bosnia, told him Friday the pause would last for one day.

Lt. Gen. Bernard Janvier, the U.N. military chief in Yugoslavia, met early Friday afternoon with Bosnian Serb military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic in Mali Zvoranik on the Yugoslav-Bosnian border.

PLO sees little chance for Sept. 18 signing of accord

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made little progress in this week's round of talks and a West Bank autonomy agreement might not be ready by the Sept. 18 target date proposed by Washington. Palestinian negotiators said Friday.

However, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he was confident a pact could be written and signed by the end of the month, Israel Radio reported.

"I will be meeting Mr. Arafat today and we shall be discussing issues at the peace conference," Mr. Peres said. "We will be reviewing progress."

Asked why Italy was the venue for the meeting with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Peres said one reason was that secret talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations had been conducted at an undisclosed Italian location in June through the good offices of Italy's Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli.

The main stumbling blocks to an agreement are the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron and the release of Palestinian prisoners, the official said.

The Israeli army wants to maintain control of Hebron to protect the 400 Jews living in the town and many 110,000 Palestinians. The PLO wants the town free of all Israeli forces before elections in a self-rule council.

The PLO also wants most Palestinian prisoners held by Israel freed before the start of talks, scheduled for May 1996, on the final status of the territories.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Iraqi exiles say bomb killed seven

NICOSIA (R) — An Iraqi opposition group has reported that a bomb at an oil refinery in Iraq killed seven people and unleashed a fire that raged for 48 hours. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, the information wing of umbrella group the Iraqi National Congress, said in a statement received on Friday a bomb went off at the refinery in the northern town of Baiji on Aug. 24. The statement said seven people were killed, including one of the refinery's engineers who was a member of the Baath Party, Rafiq Hizbullah Maarruf. Six vehicles were destroyed, including two Jordanian gas tankers. There was no independent confirmation. The statement said the report came from a correspondent in the town, 190 kilometres north of Baghdad and near President Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit. The statement said all work at the refinery had stopped since the blast and Iraqi intelligence were interrogating the head of the refinery and management.

King to meet with Saudi leader soon

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed hope for a summit meeting with King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in the course of achieving inter-Arab reconciliation.

Speaking to reporters upon his return to Amman following a two-day visit to Oman, King Hussein said he was looking forward to the meeting. "No date has yet been fixed but, with God's will, it is to take place in the very near future," he said.

Describing his talks with Sultan Qaboos of Oman as successful, King Hussein said that the two countries' views were identical with regard to all the subjects discussed.

"The visit reaffirmed the brotherly ties between the two countries and the Jordanian delegation was overwhelmed with the Omani hospitality and brotherly feelings and respect," King Hussein added.

King Hussein, who was accompanied on the visit by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker along with other senior officials, said that Oman will participate in the Middle East and North African (MENA) conference in October.

Discussions with the Omani leaders focused on bilateral ties and ways to reestablish solidarity among Arab countries, the King said.

"I believe that matters are moving in the right direction and I am very optimistic about attaining our aspirations of strong Arab relations," he added.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos reaffirmed their support of the peace process on all tracks for the achievement of just and durable settlement and called for collective Arab action to end inter-Arab differences.

French commandos raid Greenpeace ship

PAPEETE, Tahiti (AP) — French navy commandos boarded the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II at dawn Friday as it entered territorial waters at France's nuclear testing site, and Greenpeace claimed two divers snuck into the area and boarded the testing platform.

Greenpeace said it warned the French army of divers' presence "so that the lives of the Greenpeace divers are not endangered."

France plans a series of seven to eight nuclear tests between September and May 1996. France has kept the dates secret, but it has been speculated the first test could come in the first week of September.

A French army spokesman in Papeete confirmed that two divers had entered the lagoon around the Mururoa atoll, but would not confirm that they reached the test platform.

Greenpeace said the divers were under the offshore platform, used to carry out the underground nuclear tests.

The divers were apparently among a group of Greenpeace members who set out in nine rubber rafts before the Rainbow Warrior was stormed and placed under military control.

In Papeete, 1,200 kilometres from the test site, the army said that six rafts penetrated the lagoon and four were stopped. It could not explain the fate of the others.

"Our last and final hope is to be peaceful witnesses in this test zone and do what we can to try to stop the first of this series of French tests," Greenpeace in Paris quoted spokeswoman Stephanie Mills as saying. Ms. Mills is aboard the Rainbow Warrior.

The Rainbow Warrior, with 17 members aboard, was

heading for Mururoa, under French navy escort, Greenpeace said.

The army said that 15 commandos boarded the vessel.

Ms. Mills told Associated Press Television that naval commandos boarded the boat at dawn, shortly after it crossed the 12-nautical-mile limit into French territorial waters around Mururoa atoll.

Tension between French authorities and protesters mounted as France prepared to detonate a nuclear explosion. The tests are planned at Mururoa and nearby Fangatau atolls.

Marc Launois, of the military applications division of France's atomic energy commission, said on French radio that he doubted the tests would start as of Friday and "it will not be this weekend."

Speculation nevertheless remained rampant as to when the first test would occur.

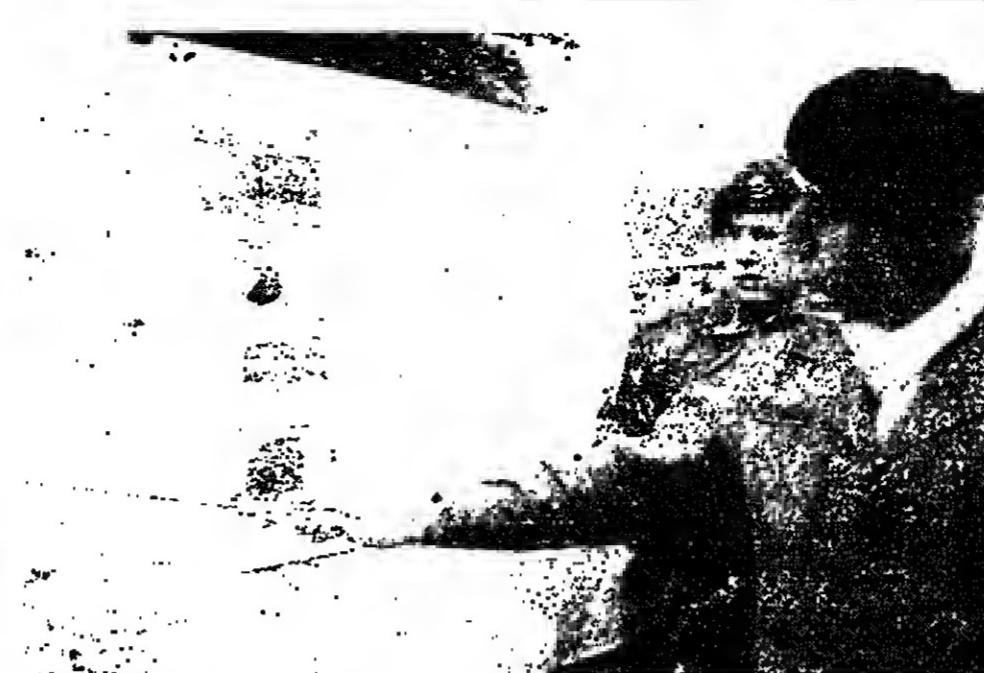
"They've just come alongside the ship. They've put this grappling hook on the lower deck," Ms. Mills said as the boarding scene was unfolding. "They're knocking at the windows... they've pushed our cameraman over," she said of the black-clad commandos.

Commandos boarded the Rainbow Warrior in a similar fashion during a July protest.

The Rainbow Warrior II is one of numerous boats in a so-called peace flotilla holding vigil around the test site.

The French warship Prairial had warned it to turn back, but it proceeded, triggering what has become a cat-and-mouse game between the environmental protest group and the French military.

As the peace flotilla led by Greenpeace maintained its vigil at the testing site, demonstrators scuffled with riot police at the airport in Tahiti's capital.



French General A. Soubiron, commander of the rapid reaction force in Bosnia, points to the Serb positions that his force hit on Wednesday at a press conference on Mount Igman (AFP photo)

Jordan and Israel discuss strategy at MENA summit

Beilin, Khalaf review projects and preparations; Israeli minister briefs Kabariti on political front

Tripartite meeting planned in Bonn in October

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel on Friday appeared to have broken new ground in coordination in strategy and presentation of development and infrastructure projects for financing at a major economic conference to be held in Amman next month as well as a common vision for economic development of the region.

Discussions chaired by Israel's Minister of Economy and Planning Yossi Beilin and Jordanian Planning Minister Rima Khalaf also produced an agreement to hold a tripartite meeting with the Palestinian self-rule authority in October, the officials said.

Mr. Beilin, who arrived here at noon after crossing the King Hussein Bridge and returned through the same route around 6:30 p.m., also held a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and briefed him on the progress of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on expanding autonomy to the West Bank.

In a statement to Jordan Television, Mr. Kabariti said the meeting covered economic cooperation and the peace process, including the Israeli-Palestinian track.

"I believe that the negotiations are proceeding well" on this track and that the two sides would reach an agreement in the next few days," he told Jordan Television.

On the implementation of Israel's accords with the Palestinians and Jordan, the Israeli minister said: "I think we are going in stages and it won't take very long

(Continued on page 7)

Planning Minister Rima Khalaf on Friday talks to reporters after a meeting with Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Yossi Beilin (right) (Petra photo)

before we see things on the ground. The development is a very rapid one. We are now concluding agreements with the Jordanians on transport and other issues, and it would be easy for people to move from one place to another. It will contribute to the ability of working together economically too."

At a short encounter with the press earlier, Mr. Beilin was asked what was his country's position on the recent defection to Jordan of senior Iraqi official Hussein Kamel Hassan.

"We don't have a position on the defection," Mr. Beilin replied. "We don't have diplomatic relations with Iraq and thus we are free from referring to the issue." He declined further comment.

The meeting between Mr. Beilin and Dr. Khalaf was the first between the planning ministers of Jordan and

(Continued on page 7)

Women bring first grassroots democracy to China

HUAIROU, China (R) — Ara Wilson's baseball hat advertises a lesbian television station and Tibetan women openly accused Beijing of genocide, giving China a first glimpse of grassroots democracy at a women's forum on Friday.

Some 20,000 women from all over the world aired their views at workshops, not exactly in the heart of the city since the international forum was shunted to the suburbs of Huaizhou at the last minute, hot close enough for the rippled to be felt.

Should they wish to have some kind of ceremony in Washington to mark the conclusion of their negotiations, the United States would be "most agreeable" to host it, the spokesman said, but he told reporters he did not have any announcement to make on when that might occur.

"Look around you and here it is," said Marilyn Golden, a wheelchair-bound activist for a San Francisco advocacy group for the disabled. "Sure, it's chaos. But

it's people talking to other people."

Ara Wilson's baseball hat carries the logo DYKE TV, and it's a fair bet no one has walked around Beijing before advertising a lesbian television station.

Nor have Tibetan women ever stood openly in the Chinese capital to accuse the Beijing government of genocide, giving China a first glimpse of grassroots democracy at a women's forum on Friday.

The women's forum runs parallel with the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, a more bureaucratic affair in which government delegations get together to baffle over the wording of a so-called platform of action.

Veteran U.S. activist Bella Abzug said women remained totally marginalised in institutions that affect them and said she would demand

commitments from world governments at next week's conference to correct the imbalance.

To press governments to make concrete financial and political commitments to the platform for action due to emerge from the U.N. conference, Ms. Abzug's organisation is setting up a scoreboard at the site that will ring a bell when a country takes welcome action and buzz when it doesn't.

The non-governmental organisations, or NGOs, to insert their more radical agenda into the platform. At the same time the NGO forum is a chance for thousands of fringe and mainstream pressure groups to network and exchange ideas.

In Bangladesh, women said they were not encouraged by the conference because its decisions would not be binding on anyone.

"We hear a lot of things about the Beijing conference. But no one says if the conference would mean an immediate end to repression of women," said college teacher Shahnaz Begum.

In Beijing, Ms. Wilson's lesbian group did not make the evening news, nor is it likely to: "The Chinese media's press coverage of the forum is filtered for controversy. Ordinary Chinese have no access to the forum site, where police roadblocks keep out the curious."

Yet the very presence of lesbians and Tibetan exiles is extraordinary.

So too is the debate in tents that dot the site and where Palestinian women have thrashed out their differences with Israelis, Kuwaiti environmentalists have engaged in slanging matches with Iraqis and prostitutes defended the world's oldest profession from feminist attacks.

As the peace flotilla led by Greenpeace maintained its vigil at the testing site, demonstrators scuffled with riot police at the airport in Tahiti's capital.

local Chinese participants selected to represent their country at the forum are getting their first uncensored look at the issues that preoccupy women worldwide.

Normally taboo subjects in China are being freely aired, such as the issue of "comfort women" the mostly Asian sex slaves of Japanese occupying forces during World War II.

Drum-beating Korean women paraded under the banner of the Korean Council for the Women's Right to Life, for women's rights.

Chinese security agents stared on impassively.

Police made no attempt to intervene in a similar protest by the Tibetan exiles a few minutes earlier, even though Chinese authorities said women must confine protests to a school playground and avoid insulting the Chinese state.

Delays and confusion, page 3

High-level talks slated for Amman economic summit

WASHINGTON (USA) — Senior U.S. officials are gearing up for intensive discussions in the next fortnight with key participants in the upcoming Middle East/North African Economic Summit in order to finalize the charters of three key institutions that are expected to be launched at the conference opening in Amman on Oct. 29.

The institutions were called for by the Casablanca Declaration, issued after the first regional economic conference of its kind, when Israeli and Arab governments and business people held unprecedented talks about regional economic development.

They are the Middle East Development Bank, the Regional Business Council, and the Regional Tourism Board. A fourth institution, the Executive Secretariat, is already operational in Casablanca, the venue of the first Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit.

The upcoming meetings will take place in Cairo, Amman, Rome and Madrid to prepare the groundwork for the three-day economic summit in the Jordanian capital. U.S. officials are hoping that the Amman Economic Summit in the wake of the Middle East peace process "can serve as an impetus for economic change" through private-public partnership.

At the Cairo meeting, due to end on Aug. 31, participants are expected to finalise the charter and bylaws of the Regional Tourism Council, formally known as the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMITA).

Judith Barnett, a senior adviser at Department of Commerce, will take part in a meeting, tentatively scheduled for early next month in Amman, for the task force charged with drawing up the charter and bylaws of the Regional Business Council. The Council is envisaged to be a private, non-profit association which seeks to promote and facilitate regional trade and investment.

Under-secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Joan Spero is also scheduled to hold talks with Jordanian government leaders on the Amman Economic Summit and other bilateral investment issues.

The Steering Committee which oversees the final preparations for the Amman meeting, which is expected to attract as many as 1,000 parti-

cants from about 60 countries, is scheduled to hold a session next month, probably in Madrid. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Toni Verstandig is expected to again lead the U.S. delegation.

Susan Levine, senior vice president for Policy and Investment Development at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, scheduled to travel to Rome around the middle of next month for a crucial meeting of the task force on the Middle East Development Bank, which reportedly still faces lingering opposition from some European and Gulf states.

Where these institutions will be headquartered is still undetermined, reliable informants said, although there has been talk that the proposed bank may end up in Cairo, the business council in the West Bank and the tourism board in a North African state, possibly Tunis. The Executive Secretariat will continue to be in Casablanca in recognition of Morocco's hosting of the first Middle East/North Africa Summit.

Because of the importance of tourism to the region and the large part it already plays in the economies of the countries of the region, the Regional Tourism Board is the least controversial of the institutions which will be launched at the Amman meeting.

Jordan's situation is a case in point. In the year since signing the peace treaty with Israel, Jordan has seen "a mini-boom" in tourism — about \$50,000 from Israel alone; and at least 12 international hotels are being built or proposed in various parts of the country, particularly in Aqaba, Petra and Amman.

Tourism receipts are expected to total \$1 billion by the end of next year, according to one Jordanian estimate.

The tourism board will seek to promote the tourism industry in the region through educational training and through establishment of a standard rating system American AAA hotel rating standard.

In an interview, Judith Barnett explained that the functions of the proposed Regional Business Council have yet to be determined, although it is generally agreed that it will serve as a "communicator" of information between companies throughout the region on trade shows, trade missions, proposed tariff changes, etc.

Northern Iraq peace process faces many obstacles

DOHUQ (AFP) — A U.S.-sponsored peace plan in northern Iraq has brought a ceasefire to the troubled region but still has many political and economic obstacles to overcome before a lasting settlement.

Apart from a halt to fighting which has cost more than 2,000 lives since May 1994, there has been no significant change in northern Iraq since the signing of a peace accord between rival Kurdish factions in Drogheha, Ireland, on Aug. 11.

The two main Iraqi Kurdish groups, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), pledged to embark on confidence-building measures when they were brought together in Drogheha.

The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, insists on first settling financial problems before recovering the Kurdish parliament in Erbil and nominating a new government.

The PUK's Faad Kamel told AFP that security measures also needed to be strengthened to ensure the

Barzan Tikiriti assails Uday, defector

LONDON (Agencies) — Barza Ibrahim Al Tikriti, half brother of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has deepened the family rift in Baghdad by launching an open attack on the leader's eldest son and his apparent Uday.

"If everyone knew their own size and ability, many problems would be avoided. The direction towards the inheritance of power in Iraq is unacceptable," Mr. Tikriti said in an interview to be published on Thursday.

Mr. Tikriti, himself often rumoured to be a potential defector, compared Uday to the "greedy, unfit for power" relatives who defected to Jordan in early August but warned the West not to count out President Saddam, even as his family fortress crumbles.

"He won't run away from responsibility. If he relinquishes rule things will only get worse. Iraq needs someone to be a vortex of power, someone who can gather people around him. The regime won't fall and

Saddam will resist until the last bullet in his gun," he told the Al Hayat Arabic daily newspaper.

Al Hayat conducted the interview to Tuesday in Geneva, where Mr. Tikriti works as a critic of the regime and vehement Uday opponent, he remains in place.

While opposition leaders have long cited Mr. Tikriti as a critic of the regime and vehement Uday opponent, he remains in place.

Many of the key players in the disparate Iraqi opposition movement, while welcoming a split in President Saddam's inner circle, said they had no plans to attend the proposed meeting.

Their reticence has cast doubt on chances for a successful, consolidated push to topple President Saddam.

"Saddam has problems but I wouldn't write him off yet," said a British official.

Mr. Tikriti dismissed long-running speculation that he too was about to abscond but did not rule out opposing from within.

"Iraq is not a monarchy," he was quoted by the

newspaper as saying. "If I oppose, I will do it in my own special way."

Mr. Tikriti also said Hussein Kamel was "a major cause of the tragedy" over facing Iraq, accusing the defector of "leading opposition within the Iraqi government, to the U.N. Special Commission" in charge of disarming Iraq.

Mr. Tikriti accused Hussein Kamel of being an "extremist and fanatic" who had called on the government "not to cooperate with the United Nations."

He also "ordered Iraqi soldiers to open fire on UN inspectors in mission in Iraq in 1992," Mr. Tikriti said.

He charged that Hussein Kamel wanted to become president.

Hussein Kamel had only been "driver in the presidential cortège before being promoted by the president to positions he doesn't merit. Now he's looking to become head of

Turkey says 22 rebels killed on Iraq border

DIYARBAKIR (Agencies)

— Turkish security forces have killed 22 Kurdish rebel infiltrators near the mountainous border with Iraq, security officials said on Friday.

The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas were killed in a clash in Hakkari province on Thursday after entering Turkey, the regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir said.

The Iraqi Kurdish group denied that a meeting it held with Turkish civilian and military officials on Thursday was a prelude to joint action against the PKK in north Iraq.

"The people in northern Iraq have been behind us during these attacks and it is something we have to sort out ourselves," the KDP's Turkey representative, Saifeen Dizayee, told Reuters.

Turkey has sent thousands of troops into northern Iraq against PKK bases there twice this year. More than 17,500 people have died inside Turkey in the PKK's 11-year insurgency.

Pentagon to transport aid to northern Iraq

WASHINGTON (USA) —

The Department of Defense and State released the following statement about the upcoming delivery by the U.S. of humanitarian supplies to help the Kurds of northern Iraq.

The Department of Defense and State have announced plans to move excess DOD generators to help the Kurdish people of northern Iraq. The six gas turbine generators will be airlifted from Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzinge, Germany, to the town of Sumail in the Iraqi governorate of Dobuk by Sept. 30, 1995.

The turbines, each capable of generating up to 625 kilowatts of power, will be hooked into the existing power grid which has been offline since the Iraqi government cut power to the region in 1993. The hope is to restore power to water pump stations, hospitals and clinics, and possibly schools throughout the area.

In addition to the generators, DOD will also provide five U.S. Army personnel to assist in the installation and training of the Kurdish technicians.

'Missing' finds spark huge row in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Tempers are flaring in Lebanon over the fate of archaeological objects which disappeared from the ancient temples of Baalbek in the eastern Bekaa Valley nearly a decade ago.

Lebanese police on Thursday were ordered to carry out searches in Baalbek to find the missing pieces, enabling them to enter any homes in the area they suspected of hiding the objects.

It all started when deputies for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah cried foul.

Deputy Khodr Tlays charged in early August that 49 pieces, including two Roman sarcophagi, statuettes, a head of Jupiter and 20 column capitals, had been "stolen" in 1987 from a warehouse in Baalbek, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Deputy Ibrahim Bayan joined in by accusing an employee of the antiquities department, Mohammad Lewai Rifai, of moving the missing pieces from Baalbek to the Beiteddin Museum, controlled by Druze leader

Walid Junblatt.

Mr. Bayan urged Mr. Junblatt, minister of displaced people in the government of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, to return the objects which he said were displayed at the Beiteddin Museum and called for an official investigation.

Mr. Rifai denied any wrongdoing. He claimed he moved the objects from Baalbek to Beiteddin upon "written instructions" from Mr. Junblatt who served as tourism minister in 1987.

Mr. Junblatt confirmed Mr. Rifai's statement but accused him of helping himself to some of the objects along the way and using them to decorate his Baalbek home. As for the ones displayed in Beiteddin, Mr. Junblatt said he would give them back.

The minister said he ordered the transfer of the antiquities for safekeeping in Beiteddin — where only 28 of the 49 pieces arrived — after learning that more than 200 archaeological objects had been robbed from Baalbek.

Rabin faces billion-dollar suit over Egyptian PoW massacres

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian lawyer is suing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a billion dollars in damages following the massacre of Egyptian PoWs by Israeli troops in two wars.

Hanan Shuhri Al Shami, 32, is one of three Egyptian lawyers who have raised separate suits against Rabin after reports that Israeli soldiers killed up to 900 Egyptian PoWs in two wars.

"Any Egyptian citizen who loves his country has to be moved by what happened," Ms. Shami told AFP. "These were my countrymen. It was a terrible thing."

Ms. Shami filed the case last week on her own behalf — "I have undergone harm in the case since there were Egyptian soldiers," she said — claiming one billion dollars for the victims' widows and orphans.

Ms. Shami said she had spoken to numerous PoWs who witnessed Israeli atrocities during the 1967 war and who she intended to bring to court to testify.

"The Israelis rolled tanks over lines of PoWs. They forced others into underground bunkers which they sealed up until they suffocated or starved to death,"

Ms. Shami said.

"Or they just lined up Egyptian PoWs and machine-gunned them," she said.

If she wins, under Egyptian law police could seize Israeli government property in

Cairo.

Egypt could in theory even arrest Mr. Rabin the moment he sets foot in Egypt, if the plaintiffs filed criminal charges against him for not paying the damages, legal sources said.

Ms. Shami has notified the Israeli embassy in Cairo of the suit. "They ought to send lawyers for the defence," she said.

Israel ruled out Monday

prosecuting those responsible for the massacres, saying Israeli law put a 20-year statute of limitations on the crime. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called on Israel to bring the authors of the atrocities to trial.

"By international law these are crimes that do not disappear with time," said Ms. Shami.

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Egyptian PoWs and machine-gunned them," she said.

Most international relief organisations and United Nations agencies operate out of

Dohuk.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

More than a year of fighting means it is now divided into a KDP-controlled northern region stretching from the Turkish border to the town of Salahuddin and covering the towns of Zakho and Dohuk.

Far from exploring confidence-building measures the two groups continue to exchange charges in a rivalry that dates back years.

The PUK has accused Mr.

Barzani of "preserving and reinforcing his tribal army instead of creating a Kurdish

army under an Iraqi Kurdish-federal government."

A KDP spokesman threw

back similar charges against the PUK and said Mr. Talabani "collaborates with the Turkish separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK)" which has bases in northern Iraq.

The PUK has also accused Mr. Barzani of collaborating with President Saddam Hussein, while the KDP retorts that Mr. Talabani is "as savage as the Iraqi leader."

"There is now a power struggle for Iraqi Kurdistan," said a Swedish aid worker in Dohuk.

"But it could turn into a fight for the post of Iraq's vice-president, after the fall of Saddam" he said, requesting anonymity.

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Washington and Ankara may have to request European hacking," a PUK official said, specifying that the fate of Saddam and the PKK's role will "determine medium-term developments in the region."

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"To achieve progress,

IRA 'disappointed' with Britain on ceasefire day

DUBLIN (R) — The IRA voiced "deepening disappointment" Friday that its year-old ceasefire had failed to win its political arm, Sinn Fein, a place at all-party Northern Ireland peace talks.

The guerrillas said in a statement one year to the day after they silenced their guns that British Prime Minister John Major had failed to grasp an opportunity for a political settlement.

Yet the statement made no reference to any possible resumption of a 25-year war against British rule which the guerrillas halted last Sept. 1 to try to win a reunited Ireland through political dialogue.

"Regrettably, and after a full year, this opportunity has not been grasped by the British government. It is a matter of concern that the British have succeeded only in preventing movement towards a resolution," the guerrillas said.

"The failure of John Major's government to face up to its responsibilities is the source of deepening disappointment to all those who seek a just and lasting settlement," it said.

The IRA did not mention moves by Britain and Ireland to set up an inter-national commission to deal with the surrender of IRA and Protestant loyalist guerrilla arms, the issue which has brought the year-old peace process to a standstill.

Mr. Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bruton, are expected to propose setting up a body at summit talks in Britain next Wednesday called to breathe new life into what they say is the best ever opportunity for a settlement.

Sinn Fein said Thursday that it would reject such a body if it turned out to be another attempt by Britain to

disarm the IRA and loyalists before an overall political settlement had been negotiated by all parties to the conflict.

Britain and Ireland hope that the internationalisation of the arms issue may break the deadlock caused by the guerrillas' refusal to hand over any arms until the shape of a new "agreed Ireland" is worked out at the conference table.

The Irish Times reported that former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, President Bill Clinton's Ireland advisor, had been asked to head the commission and had tentatively agreed.

There was no independent confirmation of the report, which would bring Washington directly into the Anglo-Irish peace process for the first time.

Northern Ireland's unionist parties, representing the views of the 60 per cent Protestant majority which wants the province to stay British, insist that they will never sit down with Sinn Fein while the IRA holds on to its arms.

The IRA arsenal includes ground-to-air missiles and semi-explosive which Britain and the Unionists fear could be used to resume the war against Britain anywhere in the world if the guerrillas were not satisfied at the outcome of peace negotiations.

This time last year Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams declared to a crowd of cheering Catholics that the IRA was lowering its guns to create space for peace negotiations.

The disillusionment and bitterness of Adams supporters went on display as protesters marched at midnight or shortly before to British army bases in Belfast, the second-largest city, Londonderry, and other Catholic parts of this British-ruled land.

No serious injuries were reported as protesters carrying "all party peace talks now" placards faced off with police in riot gear at several venues.

Sinn Fein councilors stepped in as tempers flared, ordering children to stop

31, 1994 declaration of a "complete cessation of hostilities."

Last November the IRA issued a statement disowning a fatal robbery in the border town of Newry which it blamed on a maverick IRA unit. One postal worker was killed, the only fatality directly linked to guerrilla violence in nine years.

Meanwhile, several hundred Irish Republican Army supporters launched midnight protests throughout Northern Ireland to coincide with the first anniversary of the IRA ceasefire.

The anniversary has put a focus on the dashed hopes of quick political progress and the risk that the ceasefire could break down as a result.

Peace activists provided a poignant reminder Thursday of the cost of Northern Ireland's violence. An electronic billboard in a main South Belfast square displayed each of the nearly 3,200 names of people killed during the past quarter-century of "troubles."

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Sinn Fein councilors stepped in as tempers flared, ordering children to stop

throwing stones at police even as adults shouted abuse at the generally impassive lines of officers.

"People are extremely disappointed and distressed that a year after the IRA's courageous decision, the British still refuse to accept our right to play an equal part in democratic life," Adams said as he marched down the main thoroughfare in Catholic West Belfast.

In Omagh, 100 kilometers west of Belfast, police arrested one protester late Thursday and dragged others off the main street after they staged a sit-down protest and tried to scale the perimeter fence of an army base.

Earlier, protesters in Dublin scaled the fence at the British embassy there and briefly chained themselves to a railing before Irish Police forced them back out.

Britain insists that the IRA commit itself to disarm before Sinn Fein enters negotiations with pro-British Protestant parties.

Those parties deeply distrust the Sinn Fein-IRA movement despite the truce.

Mr. Adams said he hopes the Wednesday summit near London between Mr. Major and Mr. Bruton will resolve the deadlock.

"The summit between Mr. Bruton and Mr. Major is key to ensuring that none of us slip back into the situation that we've just come out of," Mr. Adams said, noting that otherwise he could not "see a way out of this crisis."

Spokesmen for loyalist paramilitary groups, which stopped killing Catholics in mid-October, said Thursday they were willing to disarm if the Catholic-based IRA made the commitment first.

Mr. Twagiramungu fired Mr. Twagiramungu, who resigned at more or less the same moment — Monday, accusing him of failing to cope with post-war problems.

Mr. Twagiramungu, for his part, wrote a resignation letter condemning killings by the Tutsi-dominated army and arbitrary arrests, and accused the Tutsis of failing to live up to power-sharing accords.

The crisis underlined the deep ethnic divisions that continue to gnaw at Rwanda.

The new cabinet has the same ethnic balance as the old one, with a majority of Hutu ministers, but refugees have denounced many of them as collaborators.

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One of the key changes was the appointment of a moderate at the head of the key Rehabilitation Ministry, responsible for resettling refugees. In the place of a man many considered a Tutsi extremist.

Political analysts saw that as an encouraging sign at a moment when the two million Hutu refugees who fled retribution after last year's ethnic bloodbath are too terrified of reprisals to return.

The RDR said the reshuffle and arrival of "unknown" personalities in the cabinet would not "inspire confidence and reassure the Rwandan population and in particular the refugees."

"The refugees are follow-

ing the developments in the Kigali regime with concern," it added.

"There is a great risk the new government will pursue the hard line traced by extremist RPF elements who are using all means to prevent dialogue with the refugees on the conditions of their peaceful return," the RDR said.

It called on the international community to make sure the Rwandan government responded to the needs of the refugees and Hutu majority within the country.

However it said it feared the government would "pursue attacks against the refugee camps in Zaire and export war to that country, which already suffers enough from the presence of so many Rwandan refugees".

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"The only message we have to NATO is to carry on, carry on and bomb their savage brains out, not in hatred but because that is the only way to bring an end to the deaths of innocent civilians in this city," said housewife Samija Esmanovic, 42.

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artillery began pounding Bosnian Serb targets around Sarajevo Wednesday in retaliation for a Serb mortar bomb which killed 37 people and wounded 85 others in the city earlier in the week.

More than 500 air sorties and 1,000 artillery rounds later the Serbs were reeling from more punishment in three days than they had received in 40 months of war against lightly armed Bosnian government forces.

Bosnian Serb army air defences, arms factories, storage depots, communications and command and control facilities were being systematically destroyed with virtually no response from the Serbs except for the

weapons because of an international arms embargo, the NATO attacks were a delivery.

"Thank God the international community finally got serious and realised the only thing the Chetniks (Serbs) understand is force," he said.

"I'd give my life to see them running away from the bombs in Pale. Now the time has come for them to see what it's like to be on the receiving end."

"I can't even sleep these days because I am constantly waiting for new strikes. Believe me, the more strikes there are the more cooperative the Chetniks will become."

NATO jets and U.N.

Hutu refugees slam new Rwandan government

NAIROBI (R) — The leading opposition group among Hutu refugees Friday denounced a cabinet shake-up in Rwanda as strengthening the hand of hardline Tutsis and the Tutsi-dominated army.

In a communique to AFP here, the Rally for Return and Democracy (RDR) said the regime had been radicalised and was now "dominated by the bardline wing of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)." It was the RPF which led a fightback to end the genocide in Rwanda last year in which Hutu extremists killed more than half-a-million Tutsis, moderate Hutus and their families.

President Pasteur Bizimungu Thursday named as prime minister, Pierre-Celestin Rwigema, a 42-

year-old Hutu, to replace Faustin Twagiramungu. He heads a reshuffled cabinet of 21 ministers.

One of the key changes was the appointment of a moderate at the head of the key Rehabilitation Ministry, responsible for resettling refugees. In the place of a man many considered a Tutsi extremist.

Political analysts saw that as an encouraging sign at a moment when the two million Hutu refugees who fled retribution after last year's ethnic bloodbath are too terrified of reprisals to return.

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NATO jets and U.N.

Sarajevoans wonder why it took NATO so long

SARAJEVO (R) — Sarajevoans craned their necks Friday to catch a glimpse of NATO war planes roaring through the skies above the city and wondered aloud why it had taken the jets so long to bomb Serb targets.

"I am convinced the West has finally decided to bring peace here but I wonder why it has taken them so long," said 58-year-old Mustafa Balic, a professor before the war.

"You can see it does not take such a big effort. Every bomb on Pale (the separatist Serb 'capital' east of Sarajevo) will speed up the peace process. I wish I could be a NATO pilot for just one day."

NATO jets and U.N.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1995

Jordan Times

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Guns that had to be silenced

THERE WAS a clear message to the Bosnian Serbs when some 300 NATO warplanes struck at their military bases and ammunition dumps around Sarajevo and their strongholds in Pale and elsewhere in the country. Ostensibly, the successive waves of aerial bombing against Serb positions came in response to the Serb mortar attack on a Sarajevo marketplace that killed 37 people Monday. In reality, however, the decision to launch an all-out assault on the Serb military positions came on the heels of repeated Serb disregard to other U.N. declared safe areas and their professed dependence on military might to impose a settlement for the Bosnian conflict. This is not to mention the Serbs' record of ethnic cleansing, mass murder and rape throughout the past three years or more.

The United Nations, NATO and the entire Western alliance were repeatedly disgraced by their apparent unwillingness to do something concrete in the past to put an end to the carnage of innocent people in the war-torn country. When all failed to put some sense into the Serbian leadership, the U.N. and NATO decided, albeit belatedly, to act. Had NATO acted sooner and in a firm manner against the Serbian aggression and war crimes, the latest killings would not have been necessary.

The massacre of 37 Bosnian civilians last week could have been avoided had NATO's air power been deployed sooner to drive a clear message to the defiant Serbs that enough was enough. Unfortunately, though, the performance of the U.N. and NATO during and before the time of the massacre had given credence to the belief by the Bosnian Serbs that there was no political will on the part of the international community to act against them. As Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic lamented in the wake of the latest exercise of raw power in his country against his archenemies, the world has finally done what it should have done a long time ago."

At long last there has been a real deterrent: NATO has targeted not only the Serbs' artillery posts around the Bosnian capital but also their radars, communication centres, ammunition depots and command posts throughout the country. The scope of NATO's action included Mostar in the west, Gorazde in the east and Tuzla in the north. This is indeed a sizeable military operation by any standards. But more important is the fact that it has been accompanied by an even bigger political campaign against the Serbs. Let us therefore hope that all guns in Bosnia would soon be silenced as they should have done a long time ago so that reason, common sense and peace could prevail.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour commented on the recent series of explosions in Istanbul by expressing the view that Turkey is now facing a real danger of returning to violence and the subsequent intervention of the military in government affairs. Saleh Al Qallab said that the recent spate of explosions in Istanbul was directed not only at the government but also at the tourists who constitute a major source of income to the country. The Turkish armed forces carried out military coups in 1960, 1971 and 1980 in the aftermath of unrest and disturbances that rocked the country at the time, recalled the writer, who expressed belief that the army was bound to make similar moves should the political situation aggravate further.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i demanded that the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) rescind his order of closing the educational sciences college near Amman because such move is bound to adversely affect the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan. Ahmad Misleh said that the decision to close the college under the pretext of financial constraints was in total contradiction with the agency's repeated announcement that it will not reduce its educational and health services to the refugees under any circumstances. There is no real justification for the closure of the college, especially as the agency's Commissioner Ister Turkmen mentioned no such thing in his talk with Jordanian government officials last month, said the writer, who said that the agency has time and again reaffirmed that it will not take any action concerning the reduction of services without first consulting with the Jordanian government. As to the financial situation, said the writer, the agency realises that it only needs the sum of \$200,000 to cover the annual expenses of running the college, adding that such small amount can easily be raised through the agency's efforts to secure funds for its operations from the donor nations.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Let us put the disturbing episode with Egypt behind

IT WAS not surprising to see Jordan coming under media attacks in Egypt last week over the Kingdom's approach to developments in Iraq. By and large, we all understand why the state-controlled Egyptian press went for belittling Jordan's principled positions and raising question marks over the Kingdom's motivations in giving sanctuary to former Iraqi minister Hussein Kamel and his brother along with their families.

Quite simply, Egypt felt its self-assumed role as "leader" of the Arab World was not being recognised when Jordan did not feel it necessary to consult Cairo over the defections. But that feeling did not start from the defections themselves but from Jordan's decision last year to sign a peace treaty with Israel, also without any prior consultations with Egypt. The pattern of Egyptian thinking was also clearly evident in the initial criticism that President Hosni Mubarak levelled against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for entering the Oslo accord with Israel before changing tones when Mr. Arafat sought to coordinate further peace moves with Egypt and consulted Cairo.

In fact, by hosting the signing in May 1994 of the agreement that launched Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, Egypt was basking in the superficial political glory as a key player in the entire Middle East peace process. That also explained the very visible Egyptian anger over Mr. Arafat for his last-minute reservations that some key elements were missing from the accord. As far as the Egyptians were concerned, Mr. Arafat has no right whatsoever to cast a cloud over the carefully prepared Egyptian ceremony. Little thought was given to whether Mr. Arafat had a strong point behind his arguments. That has precisely been the problem with Egypt and its approaches to various issues.

Egypt has always wanted a dominant political role in the region much larger than its size and impose its hegemony. But it does not seem to have appreciated that things have undergone dramatic changes in the last five years, and the balance of power in the region no longer remains the same as it did before 1990.

Another factor behind the Egyptian media campaign against Jordan also appeared to be a desire to divert the attention of the Egyptian people from internal troubles besetting them by creating external problems. Perhaps it was only a coincidence that the Iraqi defection and the Jordanian approach to the issue offered the best target for Cairo's effort to deflect public attention from the mounting internal problems.

What we saw in President Mubarak's public offer of asylum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was a feeble attempt at grabbing world headlines, again falling very

much within the same pattern of behaviour. We don't think President Mubarak needed to be told by anyone that President Saddam is not of the mould that would seek asylum anywhere. As such, President Mubarak, by suggesting that Cairo was willing to offer asylum to the Iraqi president, was only trying to claw back into a position of political initiative, regardless, of course, of the reality that the initiative itself was a non-starter.

It was, however, rather strange that the campaign against Jordan started in the state-controlled Egyptian media one day after the Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Musa, visited Amman and held what he himself described as positive talks with the Jordanian leadership. We know the way things work in Egypt, and no one can convince us that such attacks came upon the initiative of the journalists themselves. The green signal was given from somewhere."

The barbed attack that Cairo's Al Jumhoriyah newspaper levelled against His Majesty the King by suggesting that he was harbouring a desire to bring Iraq back under Hashemite rule was at best totally unfounded. Indeed, the King himself was foreseeing such suggestions when he clearly spelled out in his address to the nation that he did not have any ambition in Iraq except to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. We wonder whether Al Jumhoriyah bothered to include that part of the address in its coverage of the speech itself.

We also know how things work in Jordan. Strange as it may seem to the Egyptians – and to some others for that matter – the Jordanian media are not state-controlled. If Jordanian newspapers follow the official line it is only because they are convinced of the soundness of the line. In fact, quite often Jordanian officials suggest to the media here to tone down criticism of foreign countries or governments when such criticism does occur.

Again, it was not any government suggestion in Amman that prompted Jordanian newspapers to hit back at the Egyptian press. It was the indignant response of nationalist Jordanians who found ill-oriented attacks levelled against their country and leadership, and no one should have expected them to accept it for any reason whatsoever. We believe in what our leadership is doing and we are convinced of the wisdom and soundness of our policies.

In any event, we believe that the Egyptian criticism of Jordan was very unfortunate and should not have come in the first place. We are glad to see the Egyptian press toning down the criticism, coupled with indirect official assurances that Cairo does not want any strain in its ties with Amman. We in Jordan share the same sentiments and hope this disturbing episode is behind us now.

'Twice bitten, thrice shy'

'The U.S. has abandoned the leadership role it should be playing as the sole superpower in the world'

By G. H. Jansen

"IT IS damned if it does and damned if it doesn't," that at present, seems to be the fate reserved for the U.S. the sole remaining world power.

Soon after the U.S. assumed that position, by default because of the collapse of the USSR, it was feared that Washington would be the "big bad wolf" or "tiger," freely roaming the international jungle. That has not happened, not as yet, and that failure has taken place so quietly that the world at large does not seem to have noticed that it is led by a single world power.

One particular example of this development became apparent when George Stephanopoulos, the Greek American special adviser to U.S. President Bill Clinton paid visits to Turkey, Cyprus and Greece in late August. His visit here turned out to be bitterly disappointing to those based on Mr. Stephanopoulos' Greek ancestry. When, soon after Mr. Clinton's election, it was known that his colleague was going to be one of his right hand men. The Greek Cypriots seemed to believe that their struggle with Turkey, now forcibly occupying 38 per cent of the island, was all over bar the shouting. Washington would return occupied northern Cyprus to the Greek Cypriots on a silver

plate. At the end of his visit here, Mr. Stephanopoulos told a Greco-Turkish press conference that he, that is the U.S., had no plan to solve the Cyprus problem and that the two sides had to get together to work out a solution between them selves.

He was then condemned because the U.S. didn't take sides. Mr. Stephanopoulos' words of advice were identical to words of advice given by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Arabs and, perhaps, to the Israelis, during his all-too-frequent missions to West Asia.

Thus, and as a matter of policy, it would seem that the U.S. has deliberately abdicated the leadership role that it should be exercising as the sole superpower. Why so? Not for lack of trying, but perhaps because of two conspicuous attempts at, and failures of, leadership – and perhaps even lack of leadership – in Somalia and now in Bosnia. So twice bitten, thrice shy.

There are several reasons for those particular failures and the present abdication. The most conspicuous was the weak, vacillating leadership given in foreign affairs by President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher. Mr. Clinton personally is one of the causes of the failure of leadership. Because he was a draft-dodger not willing to serve in Vietnam, he cannot or will not impose his will, as commander-in-chief, on the U.S. military in those several situations where the U.S. has to play a military role abroad.

Then there is the widespread American fear of taking human casualties. No sooner are "the boys" put into the field than "bring the boys home" becomes a popular slogan. The great American public has not yet grasped the simple elementary fact that the role of a soldier is to kill and be killed. This humanitarian but weak-kneed impulse could be seen in operation in Beirut in 1983-84 and Mogadishu a decade later.

Other countries are reluctant to grant leadership to the U.S. when they see, in the crucially important West Asian area, that the U.S. is led by the minor state of Israel and carries out its behests even at the expense of its own consider-

able national interests in the area which should lead the U.S. to be more friendly towards the Arabs.

Syria, for some time now, has been begging the U.S. to take an active part in its negotiations with Israel, which the U.S. helped to bring about, but the U.S. has consistently, and correctly, refused to do so. Correctly, because it has taken the Israeli side in the dispute. But, as a result, the talks between Israel and Syria are deadlocked.

Similarly it is correct for the U.S. not to participate in the Cyprus negotiations because here too it has taken sides with Turkey, covertly it would seem though this is known to be the fact.

The U.S. is at the centre of a dense world-wide net of interests so that it is unable to "take on" any major country which could do harm to this or that sector of America's network of interests. Thus, the U.S. will not "take on" Israel or Turkey, China or Japan, or India or Pakistan (maybe), or Indonesia or Germany, or Brazil or South Africa, or France over nuclear testing.

However, the U.S. record of leadership is not entirely negative. Last week it intervened in the case of Harry Wu, the human rights activist arrested in China he was released because of Washington's intervention. But that worked only because China, at this juncture, was prepared to pay a price for Mrs. Hillary Clinton's presence at the women's conference in Beijing. And also because China wants the continuation of the most favoured nation trading status granted by the U.S.

(This, of course, is how the U.S. exercises not leadership but influence – by having something that other countries want, as for instance, influence with or grants from those two superagencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. But this is more blackmail than leadership because there is no direct exercise of power or even of persuasion).

Another example of America's rare success in leadership was in Ireland where, thanks really to the influence of the Irish-American community, the Irish Republican Army was compelled to agree to a ceasefire.

But underlying the U.S. failure of leadership is a basic emotion. What the English poet Laureate Lord Tennyson called, "the craven fear of being great," because to be "great" and to be a leader one has to be out in front, on one's own, doing unpopular and even nasty things which the Americans, who want to be loved and who believe passionately in "togetherness," do not like.

There is also a failure of the national nerve, due in a large degree to the humiliating defeat in Vietnam. It is inaccurate to say that the walk-over "victory" in the "war" against Iraq has cured the U.S. of the "Vietnam syndrome": for the second Gulf war was not a real war and the "Vietnam syndrome" is still alive in the U.S.

This American moral uncertainty about past actions resurface in mid-August with questions being raised about whether the U.S. should apologise to Japan for dropping the two atom bombs there, even though, as is widely known, the Japanese were brutal aggressors.

Honest doubt and self-questioning about one's past actions are good things but not when, as in the case of the U.S., they lead to weak willed uncertainty and indecisively.

But if, unfortunately, there can only be one superpower, it is really such a bad thing that that power should be a confused and uncertain giant.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

More than two thirds of students who passed the Tawjih examinations this year are frustrated because they have failed to obtain seats at state universities with below the 80 per cent grade level while others with 83 per cent grades were rejected, the writer said some of the students who are accepted through (wasta) to study at the state universities have rich parents who can afford to pay for their education at private colleges and foreign universities. The crisis is created annually at the time of university registration in Jordan is caused by two factors: the intervention of people in high places (wasta) to secure seats for certain students and the failure on the part of the concerned authorities to come up with an appropriate educational system to ensure justice and equality.

because they are supported by people in high places (wasta). Citing the example of a number of students who were accepted at these universities with below the 80 per cent grade level while others with 83 per cent grades were rejected, the writer said some of the students who are accepted through (wasta) to study at the state universities have rich parents who can afford to pay for their education at private colleges and foreign universities. The crisis is created annually at the time of university registration in Jordan is caused by two factors: the intervention of people in high places (wasta) to secure seats for certain students and the failure on the part of the concerned authorities to come up with an appropriate educational system to ensure justice and equality.

goods, said Fakhri Kawar. What the employees get from the government is channelled in a different manner to the pockets of the greedy merchants and profiteers who are able to deceive the government and the limited-income groups alike and are quite skillful in ways of massing fortunes at the expense of the people, said the writer. It is inconvenient to the government, he said, to take a firm stand against the merchants' greed to save itself the headache of giving raises to its employees except whenever that is necessary and halt the misery of the limited-income group.

Mohammad Subeibi, a writer in Al Dustour, criticised calls on the government to abolish the Ministry of Supply and stop subsidies for basic commodities. The ministry pays JD 30 million

regretfully the United States is opposed to such conclusion and is determined to perpetuate the sanctions. However, he said the Iraqi government's recent decision to open negotiations with Kuwait to find a solution to the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq could help overcome the American opposition to the lifting of the sanctions especially if the Kuwaits and the Iraqis reach a settlement. Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Jordan is calling for change in Iraq because it fears for the fate of its people who are starving and facing misery. Jordan calls for the change if it brings about an end to the sanctions that have brought about this misery but it is not urging one faction to take up arms against another or for violence to erupt in Iraq. What Jordan is seeking is an end to the embargo, as well as freedom and democracy for the Iraqi people and a better future for their children, said the writer. But he stressed that it is because Jordan cares for the Iraqi brothers that it is calling for the change, which the writer said would bring with it peace and prosperity to Iraq and the Arab Nation.

Mr. Hattab's views conflicted with those of Mahmoud Rimawi, another writer in Al Ra'i, who said that only the Iraqis have the right to take action that would perpetuate the present situation or cause a change in the regime. The writer said that the Iraqis should have the freedom to voice their views and decide on the form of government they want because they are more aware of their needs than other people. Any change in Iraq must take into account the Iraqi people's interests first, said the writer, who expressed hope that the recent data provided by Baghdad is bound to help achieve this goal but to the people.

Northern Ireland peace is Washington party talk

By Andrew Hill

Reuter

DUBLIN — It was a muggy night in Washington when Ireland came together after seven decades of partition, 25 years of war, 3,200 deaths and one of the biggest peace time security operations since World War II.

Sweat flowed as easily as the wine and Guinness beer at a party in the Irish ambassador's residence. The guests eyed the small swimming pool in the garden with a barely concealed thirst to swim.

Such events are common in the U.S. power capital.

But this was a remarkable evening. The guests represented every shade of political opinion in modern Ireland and they were talking to each other, something they never do at home.

It was the political dividend of 10 months of peace in Northern Ireland brought about by twin guerrilla ceasefires and an unprecedented international attempt to heal one of Europe's deepest scars through concerted diplomacy.

No deals were clinched. No grand plan was unveiled to bring about the new "agreed Ireland", sought by Britain and Ireland, in

which Protestant and Catholic, Irish nationalist and pro-British unionist, could live together in prosperous peace.

But it symbolised a willingness to talk, even if only above the clinking of glasses and the drive of an Irish reel band, brought about by the ceasefire of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which will be one year old next week.

That hot night, whether on the streets of Belfast recently cleared of British army troops or in the corridors of power in draughty Dublin, the talk, as in Washington, was of peace.

"It wasn't the fact that

they all gathered under one roof," recalled one senior Irish official who was present. "It was the fact that they were all standing there and talking together."

The occasion was a conference called by President Bill Clinton to draw investment into Northern Ireland and the border counties to cement the rare peace caused by the silencing of IRA and Protestant "loyalist" guns.

It was the who's who of Irish politics, a layman's guide to a conflict that has eluded many attempts at resolution but which the key peace-makers, Britain, Ireland and the United

States, say now faces its best-ever chance of settlement.

There were Northern Ireland Unionists, the diehard Protestant bastions of continued British rule of the province. There were Irish Republicans who dream of ending the seven-decade old partition of the island.

There were Irish government ministers such as Deputy Premier Dick Spring, one of the authors of the Anglo-Irish Downing Street declaration which launched the peace drive in December 1993 and persuaded the gunmen to stop the killing.

There were even political representatives of the mur-

kies corners of the conflict, the Protestant gunmen who killed 900 Catholics in cold blood to terrorise the community from which the Irish Republican Army guerrillas drew support.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, sent its regrets. Its president, Gerry Adams, was hosting another function across town at which he was airing his views on how to move the peace towards his goal of ending British rule of the province.

But he had made his mark in Washington. Hours before he held a brief meeting with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, an event unthinkable only months previously when London vilified Mr. Adams.

It was a moment rich in symbolism. Britain had insisted there could be no such meeting until the IRA started handing over the guns and bombs it used against British rule. But the London government changed its mind.

Northern Ireland's mainstream Unionist leadership collectively boycotted the Washington conference as a result, but sent delegates

nonetheless. They were there on that muggy night in Washington, even though they never come to Dublin.

So was David Ervine, head of the Progressive Unionist Party, which represents the views of the Ulster Volunteer Force, one of the two main Loyalist guerrilla groups — so-called because they are "loyal" to British rule.

His pup has no seats in the London parliament — yet. But Mr. Ervine says it represents the voice of Protestants weary of war and of a leadership still in place from decades ago whose war cry was and is "Ulster says no" — to anything but British rule.

"Where did it get us all?" asks Mr. Ervine. "The Unionist leadership has been saying 'no' for years and all we've had is years of conflict."

It still says "no". It says no to attending an Irish forum for national peace and reconciliation which meets weekly in Duhlin to test the views of every section of Irish society from farmers to Sinn Fein.

It says "no" to attending

all-party talks to be convened by Britain and Ireland until the IRA and Loyalists disarm. It fears a sellout to Irish nationalism under the guise of peace.

But there is a feeling among British and Irish officials as well as those at the Washington party that Unionists will have to talk, if only to safeguard their British status they cherish.

The point of reference is a new blueprint, called the framework document, which Britain and Ireland launched in February to build on the peace and get the two neighbours to cooperate on the economic front to cement trust and peace.

It is still on the table, awaiting a forum in which it can be discussed.

Its fourth paragraph, which might have been hung over the door of the Irish embassy that night, said: "A climate of peace enables the process of healing to begin."

"Everyone now has a role to play in moving irreversibly beyond the failures of the past and creating new relationships capable of perpetuating peace with freedom and justice."

Rwandan Hutu hardliners feel no guilt for genocide

By Manoah Esipisu

Reuter

KASHUSA CAMP, Zaire — The men of Kashusha camp say they oppose further ethnic bloodletting in their Rwandan homeland but they will not apologise for the slaughter of up to one million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus last year.

Kashusha and the twin camp host about 100,000 ethnic Hutus, or one tenth of the Hutu refugees who fled to Zaire after the genocide and civil war.

But the camps host a special class of refugee. Many are from the Interahamwe militia that is blamed for the massacres or are former civil servants who fled when the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) won the war in July, 1994.

They know they will be key targets for reprisals if they go home, but they do not accept blame for what happened.

"Are we remorseful over so much blood lost, should we apologise? I do not think so. It was a war and in a war it is not one party that is guilty," said a university-trained agronomist in Kashusha called Ngendahana.

"Most refugees do not know who was involved in the massacres. It is impossible for everyone to have been involved," said Asman Gakusi, once a hotelier but now championing the cause of an organisation called Oterwa au Rwanda (Return to Rwanda).

The group denies that

A Zairean soldier keeps guard over Hutu refugees who were forced to evacuate the refugee camps and return to Rwanda (AFP photo)

former government leaders or the Interahamwe militia are threatening and intimidating ordinary refugees to ensure that efforts at reparation fail.

"Who is the killer? Inside the RPF aren't there people who have also killed and are walking around Kigali free?" asks a photocopied leaflet circulating in Kashusha.

Zaire has suspended the forced expulsion of Hutu refugees it began one week ago. The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR is ready to take over a voluntary repa-

ration and claims many ordinary refugees are willing.

"We can only be guaranteed security and peace if the current leaders in Kigali talk to us so we can discuss how to govern our country together," the notice added.

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rative meeting."

"The two countries never sat down and planned" economic cooperation, said Mr. Liel. "We have attended many international forums but we never had a meeting between the two planning ministers."

In his comments to the press, Mr. Beilin also touched on Israel's negotiations with Syria and criticised Damascus for not accepting Israeli calls for behind-the-scenes contacts to advance the peace process.

"I'm much less optimistic about the Syrian track" compared with the Palestinian track, he said. "I believe that Israel went a very long way suggesting that our withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights will be parallel to the extent of peace suggested by the Syrians. Regrettably, until this moment there is no decision from the Syrian side."

"It is very difficult to tell," he said in response to

productive meeting."

Bonn gave only the barest information about the mission, which was in support of the rapid reaction force in Bosnia-Herzegovina rather than part of the NATO air raids.

The German tornados "returned safely to the air base at Piacenza" in Italy, the German defence ministry said.

The announcement did not say exactly when the German Luftwaffe jets were in action, but other sources said it was on Friday.

By coincidence, Friday was the 50th anniversary of the beginning of World War II in Europe, when Adolf Hitler's

German warplanes were

Jordan, Israel discuss strategy

(Continued from page 1)

Israel, which signed a peace treaty in October and are now seeking close economic co-operation and co-ordination in developing some of the border areas, including the Jordan Rift Valley.

The meeting was attended by Omaya Touqan, a senior member of a Jordanian committee preparing for the MENA summit. Jordanian ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher, Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Israeli embassy Yacov Rusen and Prime Minister advisor Yasam Avadallah as well as other officials.

"We discussed all issues of regional economic co-operation and matters related to the Amman economic summit," Dr. Khalaf told reporters after the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, held over lunch at the Guest Palace in Amman.

The three most important topics we discussed were regional projects, particularly projects that we will submit to the Amman summit. We also discussed the Amman summit and we discussed issues of interest to the region in the post-peace era.

"We have decided to give priorities to fast-track projects that the region needs and which could be implemented relatively quickly," said Dr. Khalaf, adding that both sides agreed to coordinate work on preparing for joint projects.

The minister said that among the priority projects — some of which are expected to be implemented in 1996 — were access roads and bridges across the River Jordan to connect Jordan

with the Palestinian territories as well as Israel.

There are two bridges connecting Jordan with the West Bank and another linking the Jewish state as well as the Kingdom.

In addition, a desert crossing point — Araba — is also operational near Aqaba. However, the bridge and the southern crossing are not seen as adequate to accommodate the large volume of Israelis visiting Jordan every day and an expectedly high volume of cargo traffic between the two sides after they sign agreements on transport and trade.

Mr. Beilin said some projects were shortlisted for quick implementation, but he declined to discuss details. "The meeting was too short to review the costs involved," he told reporters at the Guest Palace.

However, he said the talks covered the expansion of Aqaba airport to serve both countries, development of the Jordan Rift Valley and a \$3 billion plan to build a canal to link the Red Sea with the Dead Sea.

"What is more important," said Mr. Beilin, "we — Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis — will be able to plan together for the future, because we live here together and it will be a mistake for us to plan separately for the common future for all of us."

"We have found a common denominator," he said of his discussions with Dr. Khalaf. "The common denominator is very wide."

Jordan and Israel as well as the Palestinians have prepared a list of projects worth several billion dollars to be presented at the

Amman summit, expected to be attended by more than 1,500 government leaders, international businessmen and economic experts. All sides would be seeking financing for the projects, some of them to be shared by Jordan and Israel as well as the Palestinians.

As such, said Alon Liel, secretary-general of the Israeli ministry of economy and planning, Mr. Beilin and Dr. Khalaf agreed to hold a meeting with Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath in Bonn in October. "The idea is to create a Jordanian-Israeli-

Palestinian triangle for economic cooperation," he told the Jordan Times.

"We have developed a framework not only to go on and discuss projects, but also to discuss the roots — the economies of the three countries, the infrastructure, services, etc..." Mr. Liel said. "It was a very

productive meeting."

"The two countries never sat down and planned" economic cooperation, said Mr. Liel. "We have attended many international forums but we never had a meeting between the two planning ministers."

In his comments to the press, Mr. Beilin also touched on Israel's negotiations with Syria and criticised Damascus for not accepting Israeli calls for behind-the-scenes contacts to advance the peace process.

"I'm much less optimistic about the Syrian track" compared with the Palestinian track, he said. "I believe that Israel went a very long way suggesting that our withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights will be parallel to the extent of peace suggested by the Syrians. Regrettably, until this moment there is no decision from the Syrian side."

"It is very difficult to tell," he said in response to

Strikes on Serbs suspended

(Continued from page 1)

bian President Slobodan Milosevic. The two met again Friday.

The airstrikes — the largest in NATO history — seemed to be having the intended effect of limiting the Serbs' ability to wage war.

Captain Trevor Murray, chief of air operations at NATO's southern headquarters in Naples, said the alliance had flown 500 missions by Friday, and there were no new reports of anti-aircraft fire.

Reflecting growing optimism among U.N. officials, spokesman Chris Vernon said: "We have completely suppressed our opinion of the Bosnian Serb heavy weapons to fire back into Sarajevo."

German warplanes were

troops, tanks and planes invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. The anniversary was marked quietly in some military cemeteries and churches in Germany.

The German planes were in the air also on Thursday but they were not called on because of "technical reasons" that the defence ministry did not explain further.

U.N. military sources in Sarajevo and Zagreb said Friday's targets included: A T-64 tank and an artillery piece near the southwestern city of Mostar, an anti-aircraft missile site near Sokolac in eastern Bosnia, a radar bunker near the eastern town of Foca, an ammunition dump southwest of the government enclave of Gorazde, and a road bridge at Miljenko, 10 kilometres southeast of Gorazde.

The announcement did not say exactly when the German Luftwaffe jets were in action, but other sources said it was on Friday.

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Economy

Bahrain reports growth, lower deficit

MANAMA (AFP) -- A rise in crude prices in the first half of 1995 boosted Bahrain's economy and slashed the budget deficit by more than 40 per cent, its finance and economy minister said Wednesday.

Ibrahim K. al-Karim said the gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to rise by 2.5 per cent in 1995 to 1.88 billion Bahraini dinars (\$4.88 billion) while the value added in the oil sector would surge by 11.5 per cent and that in the non-oil sector by around one per cent.

"Oil and non-oil exports have increased this year while there was a rise in applications for trade and industrial licences," he told Al-khalid Al-Khalidi.

"The results recorded during the period covering January and June 1995 are encouraging, especially in view of the difficult business environment being experienced throughout the region," he added.

Bahrain produces around 40,000 barrels per day of crude oil, most of which are refined and exported. Other exports include aluminium from the government-controlled Alba company, the biggest smelter in the Middle East.

Mr. Abdul Karim said the actual budget deficit was reduced to 28.7 million dinars (\$74.6 million) in the first half of 1995, from 48.7 million dinars (\$126.6 million) in the same period of 1994.

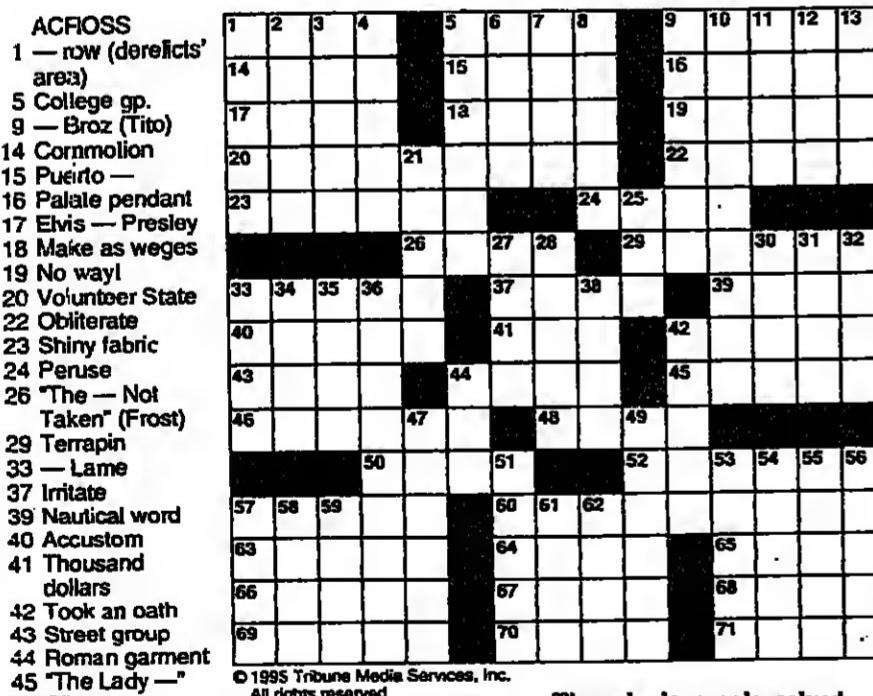
An increase in exports and unchanged import value also created a trade surplus of \$6.8 million dinars (\$168.4 million) in the first half of 1995, when exports totalled 723 million dinars (\$1.92 billion).

The oil price rise in the first half also boosted Bahrain's crude earnings by 29 million dinars (\$75.4 million), the minister said without giving figures on the total income.

The projected growth in 1995 is lower than the 3.2 per cent GDP increase recorded in 1994, when Bahrain's only boosted aluminum exports.

Unlike the major Gulf oil producers, Bahrain relies more on income from non-crude exports and the non-oil sector accounts for the bulk of its GDP.

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia B. Hopewell



Thursday's puzzle solved

DOA	ALAS	SELLS
COPPER	GANG	COCA
9 AK city	AFLIGHT	TROOF
10 Bank bad news word	STYL	SMEET STEW
11 Capital of Fiji	TVA	ELM PROS
12 Dots of land: Fr.	SAGA	CRISP
21 Whittle away	RIGA	TINT AURAE
25 Monimarie season	ACOMPANY	OF BEARS
27 Jason's craft	CAROL	SOLO STAT
28 Artist Rivera	ERASE	ERASE FLAPENS
30 Author Heyerdahl	ABEL LAS	
31 Knowledge handed down	PAAR OLIOT TOAST	
32 Inspected	ASCHOOL OF WNALES	
34 Med. subj.	CETES INFO PACK	
35 "Clair de —"	EASES ESSIE YET	
36 "Don't cry for me, —"		
38 Spore		
42 Strainer		
44 Famous poet's initials		
47 Adjusts a clock		

- 49 Manage to get along
51 Trivial matter
53 Day's merch
54 August
55 Net
56 Unevenly notched
57 Heroic tale
58 Jerome of music
59 Persian Gulf land
61 USSR secret police
62 Seafood item

Iraq gives traders deadline to clear banned goods

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will soon mobilise the army, police and members of the ruling Baath Party for a crackdown on smuggling and traders dealing in banned goods.

The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), in a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein and published in Baghdad newspapers Friday, issued new directives to check the smuggling into neighbouring countries and to clear shop shelves of goods banned in Iraq.

"The ministries of defence and interior, the General Directorate of Security, the General Commission of Customs and (Baath) Party organisations are authorised to seize property bound for smuggling and property banned from circulation in the local market," said the RCC, the highest executive and legislative body in Iraq.

Commented one trader in the city's Karrada district: "Within 30 days most shelves in my shop will be empty. About 50 per cent of what we sell falls within the category of banned items."

The sinking dinar, which now trading at about 2,000 to one U.S. dollar, has made Iraq a haven for smugglers. It also includes foreign confectionery, apples, bananas, whisky, cigarettes, perfumes, videos, watches,

to take effect in a month.

Imports of clothes and shoes are openly displayed in shops in several areas in Baghdad.

"The forum runs in parallel and hopes to influence the fourth U.N. Conference on Women, which opens Monday and has economic improvement of women as a major theme.

"Women are better repayers than men and are better agents of development because they are longer-sighted and spend money on improving the home or their children's education, while the men spend it on something today," he said.

"It is a sad commentary that the world's finances are founded on the wrong principles — the more you have, the more you get. It should be that the less you have, the highest priority you have," he said.

He spoke at the credit corner of the non-governmental organisation Forum for Women, which opened Thursday in this suburb of Beijing, after attending a seminar on women and economic empowerment: Banking on the Poor.

The Grameen Bank of Bangladesh will make loans of \$500 million this year, averaging \$140 each, to two million clients in 35,000 villages, 94 per cent of whom are women, Mohammad Yunus said.

Participants at the seminar spoke of similar banks, such as the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Bank in the west Indian state of Gujarat that was founded in 1974 in the assets of 100,000 rupees (\$3,100) and which have now risen to 600 million (\$18.75 million), said SEWA official Namrata Bali.

Like Grameen, it targets women, most of them illiterate, who cannot obtain a loan from a normal bank.

Mr. Baru said the repayment rate was 94 per cent, with women better savers than men, who spend money on themselves or things outside the home.

One SEWA client, vegetable seller, Rahima Hafiz Abdul Rehmanusa Dholak, said that prior to borrowing from the bank, she had borrowed 100 rupees (\$3) each morning from a trader to buy vegetables, paying back 110 (\$3.4) that evening.

After joining SEWA, she had been able to take out a loan of as much as 500 rupees (\$16) and put the profit into her business, Mr. Dholak told the seminar.

Lend to poor, not rich, says banker

HUAIROU, China (R) — The world's banks should alter their lending policies radically to lend to the poor and not to the rich, the founder and director of the world's biggest bank for the poor said Friday.

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South Korean foreign debt hits record \$70b

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's gross foreign debt was a record \$70.2 billion at the end of June due mainly to a ballooning current account deficit, the Bank of Korea said Friday.

Net foreign debt — total foreign debt minus overseas assets — stood at \$17.3 billion as of June, up 68 per cent or \$7.02 billion from the end of last year.

Bank officials said an aggravated current account deficit, and the extended payment period for imports on a deferred payment basis were responsible for the sharp rise.

A surge of overseas loans by corporations to finance their facility expansion in tandem with the economic recovery was also blamed for swelling the debt, they said.

Overseas assets expanded by \$6.33 billion in the

January-to-June period to \$52.9 billion as of June, the central bank said.

Short-term foreign loans repayable within a year increased by \$9.24 billion from the end of last year to \$39.63 billion at the end of June, while long-term loans rose by \$4.11 billion to \$30.56 billion.

South Korea saw its total foreign debt fall between 1983 and 1989 to \$29.73 billion, thanks to current-account surpluses during the period.

But since then total foreign debt has steadily worsened to \$42.81 billion in 1992 and \$43.87 billion in 1993.

The central bank, however, said the nation's debt would shrink, given that the current account deficit and domestic firms' foreign loans are expected to decline in tandem with South Korea's economic slowdown.

Russia plans to streamline tax system

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian government plans to streamline the country's tax system from Jan. 1 by removing a dozen company taxes and limiting various regional taxes to ease the burden on investors.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Shatalov told reporters the taxes to be lifted included the "special" tax for supporting farmers, which forms 1.5 per cent of value added tax.

In the first six months of this year police listed more than 12,000 new enterprises which were set up illegally without being registered with the tax authorities, compared with 8,000 for the whole of 1994.

The new tax code also restricts local authorities from imposing various regional taxes.

Since 1994 Moscow has allowed regions the right to impose their own taxes.

"About 100 new taxes appeared, some of which are bizarre such as that imposed on cattle for passing through a village or the tax intended to fund a regional football team," Mr. Shatalov said.

He said the tax reforms would only affect companies.

At the current rate, individuals earning less than 10 million roubles (\$2,300) annually are liable to pay up to 12 per cent income tax, while those earning between 10 and 50 million are liable for 20 per cent and those earning more than 50 million are liable for 30 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You know how to improve existing conditions at your home and get excellent results. Stay within your budget this evening or you will be short of money later on.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Add to important routines early in the day and accomplish a great deal. Show more understanding towards associates or there could be great problems.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find out what your true financial status is this morning and do whatever is necessary to bring more abundance. Perseverance pays off. Enjoy the company of a close friend this evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on important business matters so that you'll have time for recreation later. Pay vital bills that may have come up.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study personal aspects of your life and figure out the proper way to improve them this morning. Strive for increase happiness in your personal life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Gain the cooperation of good friends for a personal interest you have in mind this morning. Obtain data you need from the right source for a current project.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Look to a higher up for support you need today in order to further your career. Take no risk where your personal health is concerned at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Figure out a practical way that could give you added income in the future. Follow the advice of financial expert and you will have more success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to keep promises made during this week. Sidestep one who has an eye on your assets or you will be left with a hole in your pocket.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An associate who is upset may try to pressure you into something that is not to your liking this morning. Put your foot down and resist or trouble follows.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Attend to important duties early and show your efficiency in handling them. Show your increased loyalty to the one you love and benefits will abound.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Investigating a new outlet now could be profitable to you in the future. Contact higher ups and gain everything you need for that special project.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli



Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



American expert highlights need for advanced technological telecommunications in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hi-tech communication services are an essential component in any country's effort to invite foreign investments and the country should also be attuned to adopting the fast-developing technologies in communications since most investors are used to advanced services, an American expert has affirmed.

Craig Blakely, an attorney at law specialised in representing telecommunication companies in the U.S. and elsewhere, also said governments should remove all restrictions on on-line information services since, in the long run, the flow of information would benefit businesses and thus contribute to economic growth.

One of the most important factors in influencing investment decisions and the flow of foreign capital is the availability of advanced telecommunications services, particularly so for American companies which have grown increasing dependent on hi-tech facilities for their daily business, he said.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the Kingdom's expectations of foreign investments and efforts to invite capital should be aimed with quick moves to adapt its own telecommunication services to meet international demands along with other expected changes in economic laws and the investment climate in the country, he said.

The expert's comments come at a time when Jordan is preparing for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in October. The summit is expected to attract over

controlling interest in it.

If that indeed is the case, Mr. Blakely said, there is an obvious contradiction in the very concept of free competition since the state-owned firm would have an unfair edge over all competitors by virtue of its links with the government.

Throughout his 15 years of experience in representing telecommunications companies, the "biggest obstacle" to free competition is "resistance to change," said Mr. Blakely. When the government is comfortable with existing arrangements and system, then it resists changes because of the uncertainty over what those changes would herald.

Another impeding factor is a sense of "loss of control" over the flow of information as well as of loss of revenues.

On the first count, it is far better for governments to allow the free flow of information by "recognising the importance of information," Mr. Blakely said, adding that businesses were the ultimate beneficiary from up-to-date information. This in turn means increased economic activities that benefit the national economy.

Similarly, governments should also accept short-term losses in revenues as a result of freeing the telecommunications sector for competition among private sector firms under token regulatory laws aimed at protecting the interest of the public.

Such competition is expected here during an interim period after the TCC commercialises its operations ahead of privatisation and open the door for competition. However, he said, competition between a state-owned entity and a private sector firm will not be healthy and fair.

The expert's comments come at a time when Jordan is preparing for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in October. The summit is expected to attract over

3,000 government leaders, international businessmen and economic experts, many of whom would be looking closely at the pros and cons of investments in Jordan, among them the availability of advanced telecommunications services.

Mr. Blakely, who plans to attend the summit, was speaking at an informal meeting with Jordanian journalists during a visit he paid to Jordan last week for "familiarising" himself with the situation in the Kingdom, the laws in effect and the status of telecommunications here. He also visited the Palestinian territories on a similar mission.

The advanced level of telecommunications services in the U.S., Mr. Blakely said, was a direct result of free competition. When companies vie for better shares of the market it is only natural that they continuously pursue advanced technologies and offer better services to customers, he noted.

In the context of Jordan, Mr. Blakely said, he was informed of the Telecommunications Corporation's (TCC) to "commercialise" its operations ahead of privatisation and open the door for competition. However, he said, competition between a state-owned entity and a private sector firm will not be healthy and fair.

Such competition is expected here during an interim period after the TCC commercialises its operations and moves towards privatisation. A clear shape has not yet been given to the final shape of the entity, but the government is expected to retain

the burden to all the classes through raising the sales tax rate. He proposed imposing a slightly higher income tax on the better-off citizens to compensate for the requested rise in the sales tax. He also demanded higher tax on banks and insurance companies (Al Dustour).

** THE AUDIT Bureau saved the treasury a total of JD 3,840,496 during the first six months of this year as a result of financial reviews conducted throughout the Kingdom. The Audit Bureau saved the treasury JD 1,438,706 during the month of June alone, according to the bureau's monthly report (Al Dustour).

** DURING THE discussions between the minister of finance and the secretary-generals of government ministries and departments, the minister said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was not requesting Jordan to devalue the dinar but, to the contrary, was insisting on taking a number of measures to retain its value. The minister denied there were any negotiations going on with the IMF to devalue the dinar (Al Dustour).

** IT IS expected that the information office at the airport will be reopened in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the society of tour and tourism agents and the hotels society. The move is to come in light of the increasing tourism activity in the Kingdom (Al Dustour).

** THE AGRICULTURAL Credit Corporation (ACC) has opened two branches, the first in Qweisneh, south of Amman and the second in Aqaba.

The old and original office serving Amman was moved from the head office building to Wadi Al Seer area to look after the customers in western and northern Amman. With the opening of the branches the ACC has 19 branches throughout the Kingdom (Al Ra'i).

** PRICES OF gravel at all crushers increased during the past two months by JD 1 per cubic metre as a result of moving the crushers out of the Greater Amman Municipality area. The owners of the crushers attribute the rise to low supply and claim the government wasn't giving them enough explosives (Al Dustour).

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U.S. Open

Agassi struggles to victory; Medvedev crashes to unranked Sargsian

NEW YORK (AFP) — World number one Andre Agassi struggled through a horrendous second-round showing at the U.S. Open here Thursday, barely averting one of the most stunning upsets in tennis history.

The reigning U.S. and Australian Open champion overcame 67 unforced errors to defeat Spain's Alex Corretja 5-7, 6-3, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2. Agassi barely beat 28th-ranked right-hander who had gone 0-4 on hardcourts this year and 0-3 at the Open until this week.

"He got on top of me early, got the confidence and I'm not playing my best tennis and you know you're in for a long night," Agassi said.

"Nothing is going to keep me from winning the championship."

Meanwhile Sargsian, the unranked Armenian who was invited to compete at the United States Open after winning the NCAA University title, came back from being two sets down to upset sixteenth seed Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine. Sargsian, the Open's first Armenian player, ousted former Soviet Union rival Medvedev 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, spoiling the Ukraine's 21st birthday.

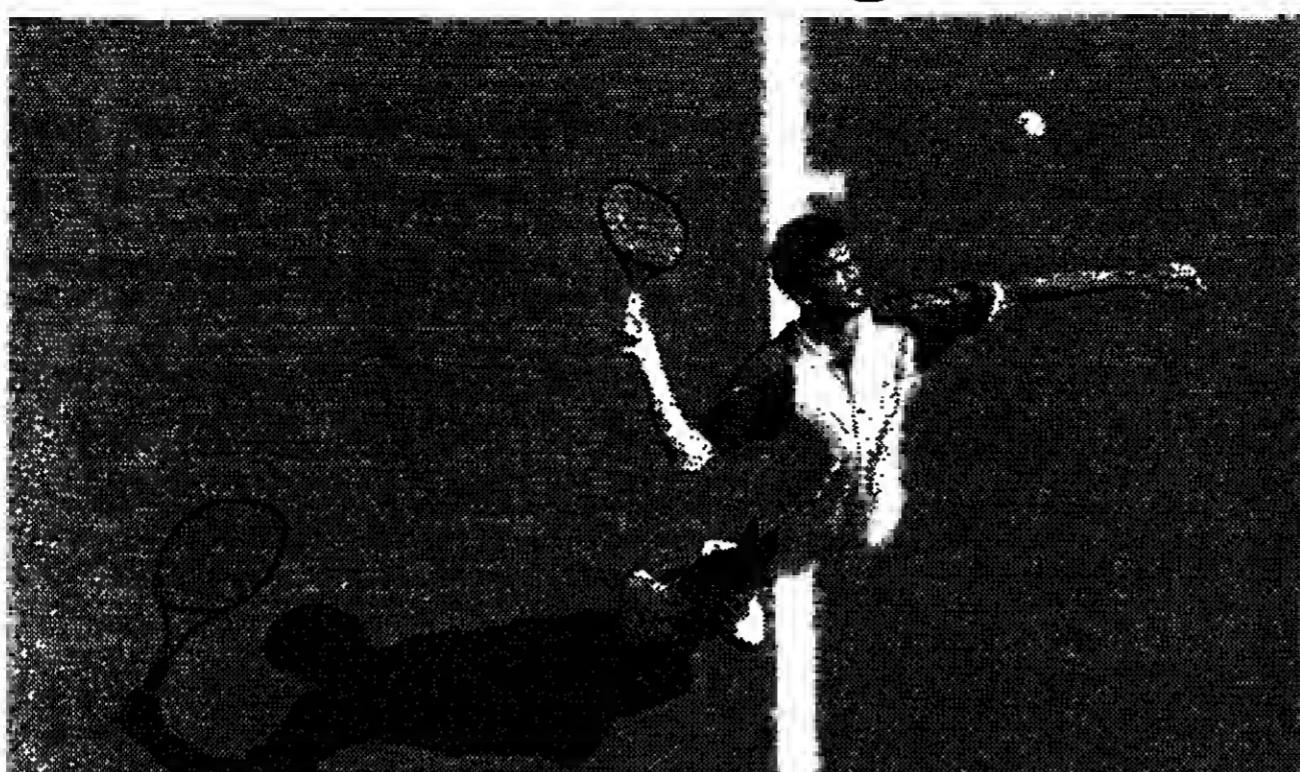
Sargsian will now play American Jared Palmer in the third round.

Agassi won his 22nd consecutive match, one shy of his longest career streak, despite failing on 17 of the 27 break opportunities before a frenzied crowd of nearly 20,000 at the \$9.86 million Grand Slam event.

Corretja, whose only ATP title in four seasons came last year in Buenos Aires, was cramping throughout the final two sets and needed treatment after the match.

But he nearly sent Agassi packing. No top seed had been ousted this early since Stefan Edberg lost his 1990 opener to Alexander Volkov. No defending champion had gone out so fast since Edberg lost in the second round in 1993.

So what should be Agassi's reward for surviving his mistake-filled match but a



Eleventh seed Sergi Bruguera, from Spain serves to opponent Daniel Vacek, from the Czech Republic during

third-round showdown against Edberg, the former number one from Sweden who is 3-5 against Agassi. The two have never met in a Grand Slam event.

"We've had some hitches," Agassi said. "It should be a great match."

Agassi double faulted on Corretja's first break point of the fifth set to fall behind 2-0, but took command from there to raise his record in five-set matches to 8-11.

"You can't look at the record," Agassi said. "Over the past year, I have been a different player."

The Agassi who won here last year and replaced Pete Sampras atop the ATP rankings was very different from the Agassi who played Corretja.

In the first set, Corretja saved three break points in the seventh game and both players held serve until Agassi double faulted on Corretja's first set point. Agassi committed 21 unforced errors in the set.

The two then battled

their 2nd round U.S. Open match in New York on Thursday (Reuters photo)

through nine deuces in the first game of the second set before Agassi missed an overhead smash to let Corretja hold serve.

"Do you know how bad I

have no play for him to get away with this (stuff)?" Agassi yelled in the second set.

Curses came more and more often, as if Agassi thought they might somehow restore his missing form.

Two more unforced errors cost Agassi a break in the opening game of the third set. He answered with a break in the 10th game, but Corretja broke back to win the set on errant Agassi volleys. He had 55 unforced errors through three sets.

The real Agassi awakened in the fourth set.

Symbolic of his turnaround was a baseline winner Agassi smashed over his left shoulder while running away from the net, Agassi took a bow, while the crowd roared after the stunning shot in the final game of the fourth set.

"My ears started ringing

sure."

Edberg's position is similar to that endured last year by Agassi, who was unseeded here after a slump but won the title.

"It's a tough position to find yourself in, but it's not the end of the world," Edberg said. "It's similar (to Agassi last year). That makes you believe there is always a way back."

Two-time Open winner

Edberg, unseeded for the first time since 1984, beat

Canadian qualifier Daniel Nestor 6-1, 7-6, (7/4), 2-6,

6-1. Edberg, ranked 19th, has

lost five of eight career meet-

ings with Agassi.

"For me, it's a great chal-

lenge playing the best player in the world here at the

Open, where the atmosphere will be great," Edberg said.

"I'm looking forward to it.

I really haven't got anything

to lose. I can be relaxed."

Agassi beat Edberg 6-4,

7-5, in the Washington

ATP final six weeks ago for

the first of his four hardcourt crowns in Open tune-ups.

"It was a close match

either of us could have won,"

Edberg said. "He is in a

position I have been in for

some years. He is supposed

to win. He will feel a little bit

of the pressure, that's for

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Barcelona foreign legion take up their posts

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona enter a new era on Sunday with an influx of foreign players to counter the threat of reinforced champions Real Madrid and Spanish "nearby-men" Deportivo La Coruna.

A total of \$100 million changed hands in player transfers in the close-season with Barcelona the biggest spenders, splashing out \$13 million.

Robert Prosinecki, Mehdi Kodro and Gheorghe Popescu are the new recruits at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium to replace Hristo Stoichkov, Romario, Ronald Koeman and Russian Igor Korneyev.

Only Romania's Gheorghe Hagi, plagued by injury last year following a superb World Cup, is still there for their opening match on Sunday at Real Valladolid.

And what does coach Johan Cryuff think of his boys?

On Croatian midfielder Proscek, Cryuff said: "He had a lot of success while he was young and he is going to prove he is not finished. The most important thing is the example he gives to the youngsters."

Kodro, of Bosnia-

Herzegovina, will be their no frills, out-and-out goal scorers.

"Kodro's philosophy can be summed up 'a goal is a goal.' I totally agree with that," Cryuff added.

And Romanian Popescu will be entrusted with a Koeman-esque role in defence. "He has excellent defensive positioning, and often moves forward to help the strikers. People will love him," Cryuff added.

SPANISH SOCCER

Despite the financial crisis of reigning champions Real Madrid, they still found the money to strengthen their squad.

Eager to make certain they were not one-season wonders, coach Jorge Valdano re-signed Argentinian marksman Juan Esmalder from European Cup Winners' Cup champions Real Zaragoza for 600 million pesetas (\$5 million), three times what they sold him for a year earlier.

Colombian Freddy Rincon was also drafted in should fading powers of midfielder Michel forced restructuring in the middle of the park. Mad-

Oman receive Asian soccer award

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Oman's national youth team took two of the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) top monthly awards on Friday based on a giant-killing performance in the recent FIFA Under-17 World Championships in Ecuador.

Oman won the AFC's team of the month award for August and Omani midfielder Mohamed Amor Al Kathiri was named player of the month, the 44-member regional governing body announced.

The coach of the month award was presented to South Korean Kim Kang-nam, who steered his side to a sixth title at the Asian Schools Championships held recently in Brunei.

The Omanis stunned world football with their swift passage to the semifinals of the FIFA tournament, beating Canada, Germany and defending champions Nigeria and drawing with Brazil.

The team lost 3-1 to eventual champions Ghana in the semifinals.

"The young Omani players were a credit to their country and to Asian football, both on and off the field," said the AFC award citation.

Al Kathiri, 16, was named FIFA's player of the tournament, with a quarter of the votes cast, after finishing second among the goalscorers with five goals in six matches.



Four times world champion Alain Prost drives during a test session for McLaren at Silverstone August 31. The test was Prost's first in a Formula One car since the death of his

closest rival Ayrton Senna in the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

Berger to leave Ferrari in 1996

LONDON (R) — Austrian veteran Gerhard Berger will leave Ferrari at the end of this year and join Frenchman Jean Alesi in an all-new driving line-up at Benetton next season, Benetton said on Friday.

Benetton said Berger, 36 last Sunday, had signed a two-year contract.

Berger and Alesi replace defending world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany and Johnny Herbert of Britain.

Schumacher is switching teams to join Ferrari while Herbert, winner of this year's British Grand Prix, is currently without a drive for 1996. He may join the Swiss Sauber-Ford team if German Heinz-Harald Frentzen leaves.

Berger said: "It was not an easy decision to part with Ferrari after the good times I've had at Maranello. However, Benetton Formula has shown incredible performance during the last few years and has offered me the most competitive package which I believe will allow me to win races next season."

"I am also looking forward to the relaxed approach which everyone enjoys at Benetton and to teaming up again with my friend Jean."

Benetton chief Flavio Briatore said: "We are delighted to see Gerhard back with us. He won his first Grand Prix with Benetton in 1986 and we wish him many more wins next season."

Berger is the most experienced driver in Formula One motor racing this season.

He has driven in 174 Grands Prix and will celebrate his 175th race appearance in next weekend's Italian Grand Prix.

Ferrari's home race, which will witness an emotional farewell for him and Alesi from their Italian fans.

Berger has won nine races and claimed 11 pole positions, including one at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, clocking the fastest race lap on 17 occasions in a colourful career.

His departure from Ferrari was a surprise to many Formula One observers as he had been with the Italian team for six years in two spells since 1987, split by three years with McLaren when he drove alongside the late Ayrton Senna.

But Berger made it clear in recent weeks he did not wish to remain at Ferrari to be a number two driver to Schumacher, whose arrival at Maranello signals he will be the central force in the team next year.

The two had a running war of words in the German and Austrian press last week and also fell out earlier this year after the Brazilian Grand Prix when Schumacher was disqualified, but later reinstated, after using irregular fuel to win.

Several drivers, including four Britons, are now in search of vacancies and will be contenders for the seat at Ferrari vacated by Berger.

These include Briton David Coulthard, who will be replaced at Williams next year by Canadian Jacques Villeneuve, Herbert, Martin Brundle, who is currently with Ligier but is known to be popular with Schumacher as a team mate, Mark Blundell, whose future with McLaren has been obscured by the recent test sessions undertaken by former world champion Alain Prost of France, and Frentzen.

The McLaren line-up has also to be finalised and two vacancies appear to exist in their proposed three-man line-up alongside Finland's Mika Hakkinen.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A NEW INTERNATIONAL COMPANY WORKING IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS IS ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE IN AMMAN, AND IS SEEKING TO RECRUIT THE FOLLOWING:

- SENIOR FINANCIAL CONTROLLER (1)-REF. SFC**
* Candidates are required for the financial accounting and management reporting functions with budget and cost control, general ledger, financial statements, analysis, etc.
* Applicants should be university graduates as qualified accountants (ACA/ACMA/CPA or equivalent) with 10 years experience. They should be able to work independently, strong interpersonal skills and excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic are key requirements.
 - ACCOUNTANTS (2)-REF. ACC**
* University Graduates, with a minimum of 5 years experience. Computer knowledge, experience in accounting programs.
* Commercial accounting experience of minimum 5 years, in similar position.
* Fluency in both written and spoken English & Arabic is essential.
 - PROJECT MANAGER (1)- REF. PME**
* Civil Engineer or Electrical Engineer with inter-city cable or pipeline construction experience.
* University graduate with minimum 10 years experience.
* Responsible for 500 Km. of cable construction, supervision and management.
* Previous responsibility should include a successfully completed multi-million dollar project, in the position of project manager.
 - EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES (3)-REF. ES**
* 4 Years University degree.
* Excellent command of English, written & spoken.
* Full knowledge of computer software's.
* Professional typing and dictation duties in both English & Arabic.
* Strong administrative and supervisory abilities.
* Strong managerial ability of all ongoing executive office work, with ability to work with and assist a wide range of individuals.
- All the above positions require an excellent command of English. In addition, the following are an advantage:
* US or UK graduates is an advantage.
* International experience is an advantage.
* Other Languages is an advantage.

The compensation and benefits package is very rewarding, competitive applicants information will be dealt with utmost confidentiality.
Kindly send your typed C.V. quoting ref. number no later than 07/09/1995 to Fax number 686125 .

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

The United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is recruiting at its headquarters in Amman:

Deputy Chief Programme Planning & Evaluation Office, Grade 18 (VN # HQ(A) 39/95). Fixed term three years (extendable)
(Monthly take home pay about JD 813 plus dependency allowance; plus monthly provident fund JD 165 payable at end of service; compulsory medical insurance).

Duties: A) Assists Chief, Programme Planning & Evaluation Office in coordinating the development of Agency plans and policies governing the operation of its education, health and relief programmes and the finance, staffing, supply, construction and other administrative services required to support these programmes, including: (1) reviewing existing plans and policies in relation to priorities outlined in latest financial plan; (2) liaising with Headquarters staff from various departments and field staff to determine problems or shortcomings in existing or proposed plans and policies as perceived from an operational points of views; (3) collating and documenting detailed plans covering operational requirements for field offices.

B) Assists in the establishment and review of performance indicators and other evaluation criteria for Agency programme plans and policies, including: (1) reviewing latest developments in the areas of operations research, cost effectiveness and business management and incorporating such developments into Agency criteria whenever relevant; (2) Working with Data Processing Division to develop changes to performance indicators and evaluation criteria.

C) Conducts organisational procedural, work measurement and cost effectiveness studies to ensure cost effective and efficient operations of a wide variety of large-scale education, health and relief programmes administered by the Agency, including: (1) review current and past operating budgets to determine expenditure trends; (2) preparation of comparative analysis of programme costs in the different fields of operation in relation to services delivered, staff complements, and other relevant considerations; (3) identification of problems or issues requiring further study; (4) development of terms of reference for studies in consultation with Chief, Programme Planning & Evaluation Office; (5) development of a procedural outline for studies, including methodologies to be employed in analysing data gathered; (6) assessment of specific areas of study to Programme Analyst 'A' and 'B', and review of their work results and proposals; (7) analysis of information and data collected; (8) preparation and presentation of reports, including recommendations for changes to Agency operational programmes.

D) Assists in implementing agreed recommendations to improve efficiency.

E) Shares the administrative work of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Office with, and acts for, the Chief, Programme Planning and Evaluation, in his absence.

Qualifications required:
University degree at the post-graduate level in economics, statistics, management science, business studies, operations research or a closely related field.

Experience:
Eight years in a responsible position, including four years in a supervisory capacity of progressive experience and three years in a large international, governmental or commercial organisation involving corporate planning, operations research, organisational analysis, work study and related functions; Excellent command of written & spoken English and Arabic.

Desirable qualifications:
1. Academic training or experience in economics, education, health or welfare.
2. Experience in management consulting in developing and staff training experience.
3. Working knowledge of spoken and written French and data processing Candidates are requested to submit a detailed UNRWA Personal History Form not later than 15 September 1995.

The Office of the Coordinator
UNRWA Headquarters Amman
P.O. Box 140157 (Wadi Saer)
Amman 11814 Jordan
Full consideration will be given to disabled candidates whose disability does not mitigate against the effective performance of the duties of the job. UNRWA welcomes applications equally from men and women. Priority will be given to duly qualified registered Palestinians.

Toronto Blue Jays designated hitter Paul Molitor attempted to score Molitor was tagged out at home plate by third base on a fly ball to center field Cleveland Indians catcher Tony Pena by teammate John Olerud (Reuters during third inning action in Cleveland on photo)

Chinese swimmers test negative

BEIJING (AFP) — Swimming authorities said here Friday that 13 Chinese swimmers, including former world champions, had tested negative for performance-enhancing drugs.

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) conducted the tests between March 9 and June 26 on the swimmers, who included Le Jingy, Dai Guohong, Liu Limin and He Chihong, Xinhua quoted swimming chief Guo Qinglong as saying.

China first came under scrutiny after its swimmers carried off 12 of the 16 gold medals on offer at the World Championships in Rome last year.

Scandal broke out several weeks later when 11 Chinese athletes — including swimmers Lu Bin and Yang Aihua — tested positive for dope at the Asian Games.

FINA launched an investigation in March, but cleared Chinese sporting authorities of blame, as well as refuting allegations of systematic and organised doping.

Meanwhile, the Beijing Municipal Sports Commission has introduced stiffer penalties for those found to have taken drugs, the Sports Daily reported on Friday.

The commission director, Wang Jingqing, announced the sports clubs and trainers could now be fined for doping, and not just the athletes, the paper said.

Under the new law, guilty athletes will now have to pay a fine of 10,000 yuan (\$1,200) and the cost of 10 drug tests (about \$1,700).

Delicacies with a little accent at the Marriott

PASTA AL DENTE
Every Saturday with a glass of local wine on the house

FAJITA FIESTA
Every Monday mexican food at its best

AT AL-MANSAF RESTAURANT
FROM 7:30 pm UNTIL 11:30 pm

AMMAN
Marriott
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The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♦ 1♥ 1♦ 1♦ Pass
What do you bid now?
A - You have a sound minimum opening bid, but not good enough to be considered yet. Your choices are one no trump or two clubs. We think it more important to show a balanced hand with a stopper in the enemy suit than to rebid a good five-card minor. Bid one no trump.
Natural, you plan to introduce hearts next.
Q. S. As South, vulnerable, you hold:
A♦ B♦ C♦ D♦ C♦ B♦ A♦ K♦ J♦ 9♦
The bidding has proceeded:

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♦ 2♦ 3♦ Pass 4♦
What do you bid now?
A - Partner's bid of three clubs asks you for help in that suit to bid game. You could hardly have a better holding (or hand, for that matter), so to bid anything less than four spades would be a dereliction of duty.
Q. S. Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
A♦ B♦ C♦ D♦ C♦ B♦ A♦ K♦ J♦ 9♦
The bidding has proceeded:

spades
not long in hearts, your chances for game are practically nil. Since you are going to take four or five tricks in your own hand, pass and hope the penalty will be substantial.
Q. S. As South, vulnerable, you hold:
A♦ B♦ C♦ D♦ C♦ B♦ A♦ K♦ J♦ 9♦
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♦ 2♦ 3♦ 4♦
What action do you take?
A - This is close. In theory, the hand is worth a try and, opposite a reliable partner, we would invite with five spades. At rubber bridge with a partner whose proclivities are unknown, we would take the sure profit by passing four spades.

Q. S. Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
A♦ B♦ C♦ D♦ C♦ B♦ A♦ K♦ J♦ 9♦
The bidding has proceeded:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1♦ 2♦ 3♦ 4♦
What action do you take?
A - Partner's simple response shows 8 points or fewer. Your hand has no body so, even if partner is maximum, game will be a touch-and-go affair. To cater to all those hands where partner has a less-than-optimum holding, we would show a minimum double now by passing.



NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. navy impounds tanker with Iraqi oil

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.S. Navy ships enforcing a U.N. embargo of Iraq have impounded a tanker suspected of trying to smuggle Iraqi oil, a spokesman said Friday. T. McCreary, spokesman of the U.S. Navy's fifth fleet, said the Saint Vincent-flagged Fair Sky was "turned over to a friendly nation in the region, which will determine its disposition along with the U.N. sanctions committee." He did not name the country to which the vessel had been diverted, or its original destination. Commander McCreary said the Fair Sky "came out of Iraqi waters and was believed to be carrying Iraqi diesel," when it was intercepted by U.S. navy sailors in mid-August. He said the navy had gathered "substantial evidence" that the tanker was carrying Iraqi oil before impounding it. There are fewer ships trying to bust the sanctions because of strict enforcement by the multinational U.N. maritime interception operation, said spokesman McCreary, whose fleet is part of that team. He said the Fair Sky was the first ship caught since May. "Last October we caught seven," he said.

Conflicting court rulings on 'The Emigrant'

CAIRO (AP) — Two courts have issued conflicting rulings on the controversial film "The Emigrant" in cases that have come to symbolise the tug-of-war over freedom of expression in Egypt. One Cairo court ruled late Thursday that the film by Egyptian director Yousef Shahin should be banned, overturning a previous ruling that allowed the movie to be played in local theatres. A second court tossed out another case calling for a ban, saying it was up to the Ministry of Culture to decide if the film can be shown. The rulings are largely academic, since the film has finished its run in Cairo. But they could affect future showings as well as video cassette sales. "The Emigrant" tells the story of Ram, whose brothers drive him into exile. He travels to Egypt to learn agriculture, but gets entangled in the intrigue of a pharaoh household before he returns home. Conservative Muslims and Christians charged that the film depicted the life of the biblical Joseph and was an affront to their religious beliefs. Mr. Shahin denies this.

Bomb explodes in Istanbul, injuring waiter

ISTANBUL (AP) — A bomb placed under a table in a restaurant here exploded early Friday after closing time and injured a waiter, police said. The bomb went off in the restaurant in a low-income neighbourhood at around 2:45 a.m., shattering windows and damaging tables and chairs, the police said. A 13-year old waiter who slept in the restaurant was lightly injured. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But various underground groups, including Kurdish guerrillas, leftist groups and Islamic militants have been active in this metropolis of 12 million for years.

Watchdog slams attack on Lebanon press freedom

BEIRUT (AFP) — An international watchdog has slammed prison sentences imposed on three journalists by a Lebanese court, saying they posed a threat to press freedom in the country. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also said the sentences passed in June against Hassan Sabra, Ghazi Al Maqbur and Yusef Howayek were a violation of human rights. Mr. Sabra and Mr. Maqbur, the publisher and managing director of the pro-Syrian As Shira'a magazine, were sentenced to one month in prison each on June 28 by the publications court. They were accused of publishing on Nov. 25, 1991, an editorial called "Reform or Resign" which the court said was damaging to the head of state. Both have appealed and have not yet been jailed. Mr. Howayek of the opposition Al Diyar newspaper was sentenced three months on June 26 when the court found he had slandered a member of the parliament by suggesting he was involved in drug trafficking.

'Very fruitful' talks between Manila and Musa

DURBAN (AFP) — South African President Nelson Mandela on Friday described as "very fruitful" talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa at King's House, the president's official residence in the port city of Durban. Mr. Mandela said Egypt was noted as one of the most important countries in Africa and one with which South Africa aimed to maintain good bilateral relations. It is in South Africa's "interests" to keep a consolidated relation with the Egyptians "because they have the advantage of moving in the three important circles: the African, Muslim and Arab worlds." "Undoubtedly a country like that is of importance to the entire continent of Africa." South African Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo, who attended the meeting, said he was travelling to the Middle East later this month to observe the second round of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, in which Cairo has played an important role.

Algerian, Portuguese win Qadhafi prize

PARIS (R) — Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella and Portugal's ex-President Francisco Da Costa Gomes have received the "Qadhafi" Prize for Human Rights in Libya's capital Tripoli, the official Libyan news agency JANA said on Friday. JANA said Mr. Ben Bella and Da Costa Gomes received the prize at a ceremony to mark the 26th anniversary of Colonel Qadhafi's accession to power. The agency said Mr. Ben Bella, 79, got the prize for his role in Algeria's independence fight against France, and Mr. Da Costa Gomes, 81, for his role in overthrowing Portugal's military dictatorship in 1974. The prize is worth \$250,000.

Cyprus loses world-renowned healer

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Magus of Strovolos, spiritual healer Stelios Arteshish who attracted followers from around the world, has died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of 82. Also known as Daskalos (teacher in Greek), he held classes in the Strovolos suburb of the Cypriot capital twice a week and healing sessions on Thursday. His courses were attended by groups from Switzerland and from as far afield as South America, but Daskalos never accepted money for his classes nor sought publicity. He preached a mixture of Christianity and eastern mysticism, with a strong emphasis on reincarnation. Daskalos' teachings will live on in the videos and tapes made of the sessions in the back garden of a Strovolos house, as well as in the work of his daughter, Arteshish, whether you believed in his powers or not, was "one of the island's most fascinating personalities," said an old friend, journalist Andreas Hadjipapas. The retired civil servant and former friend of the island's political and religious leader Archbishop Makarios had been in a coma for several months and died last Sunday. The book "The Magus of Strovolos," by Kyriakos Marvides, spread his reputation around the world.

3 Pakistanis beheaded in Mecca

RIYADH (AP) — Three Pakistani men convicted of heroin trafficking were executed Friday in Mecca, the state-run Saudi radio reported. Executions are usually carried out at a public square near a mosque after midday prayers. But in recent months, they have been also taking place on other days as well amid a sharp increase in the number of beheadings that has raised protests from human rights organisations. Last month Turkey protested the execution of four Turks for drug smuggling and appealed for clemency for some 20 others awaiting execution. The Saudis have indicated they will continue their policy of beheading narcotics traffickers. Some 140 people, mostly Asian and African drug smugglers, have been beheaded so far this year in Saudi Arabia. That is about three times the number executed in all of 1994.



Rescuers view the wreckage of a hooby-trapped vehicle that went off in the crowded Ounouri Square in Algeria's Bah Al Oued neighborhood on Thursday (AFP photo)

Assad cannot be scared into peace — Mubarak

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel must not try to pressure Syria into concessions in Mideast peace talks by raising the "spectre" of a hardliners' victory in Israel's 1996 elections, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Friday.

Such attempts to speed up the stalled negotiations would only backfire, Mr. Mubarak told the Maariv daily.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would rather stick with continued Israeli control over the Golan Heights than negotiate a withdrawal in stages which he fears might be frozen if Israel's hawkish Likud Party comes to power, Mr. Mubarak said.

"Don't scare Assad with the spectre of the Likud," Mr. Mubarak said. "Assad would prefer to let the whole thing drop so that he could face his own people without apprehension."

Likud opposes giving back any part of the Golan.

Israeli officials have said a peace treaty with Syria would have to be concluded by the end of the year, before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin begins his reelection campaign and has little room for making concessions on the Golan.

In a rare comment on Israeli politics, Mr. Mubarak suggested that he favoured a Rabin victory.

"My God, I hope peace comes before the Likud comes to power," Mr. Mubarak told Israel TV's Channel 2.

Mr. Mubarak predecessor, Anwar Sadat, signed a peace treaty in 1979 with Likud's Menachem Begin.

Mr. Mubarak said Friday that Begin, though stubborn, "showed flexibility and an ability to make a decision."

However, all peace efforts were frozen when Begin was

succeeded by Yitzhak Shamir.

Concerning Syria, Mr. Mubarak said Israel should drop a demand to establish an early warning station on the Golan after an Israeli troop withdrawal. In Damascus, the Israeli demand is seen as an attempt to perpetuate the occupation," Mr. Mubarak told Maariv.

The Israel-Syria negotiations have been stalled for weeks, with Syria refusing to renew talks of military experts from both sides about Golan security arrangements after an Israeli pullback.

Maariv said Syria would only agree to a resumption of talks if Israel dropped a demand for an early warning station on the Golan.

However, Mr. Rabin apparently has resigned himself to a stalemate and is not willing to make any concessions to the Syrians, the Haaretz daily said Friday.

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Gunmen wound Ahbash leader after assassination of sheikh

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — A gunman opened fire in South Lebanon at a member of pro-Syrian Sunni Islamist group, overnight seriously wounding him in the second attack targeting the faction in 24 hours, security sources said on Friday.

They said Jamil Shraideh, a Palestinian member of the ultra-religious Al Ahbash Association, was wounded when the gunman fired at him in Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp, a day after a religious leader in the movement was gunned down in Beirut.

The gunman first hurled a hand grenade into Shraideh's shop in Ain Al Hilweh, near the port of Sidon, before opening fire from his sub-machinegun, the security sources said.

Two other people were wounded in the attack which took place at around midnight, the sources added.

On Thursday, masked gunmen in Beirut killed the head of the rapidly-growing Ahbash movement, Sheikh Nizar Al Halabi, in Lebanon's first political assassination in more than a year.

Two suspects have been arrested in the killing as a hitherto unknown group claimed responsibility for the assassination, which served a blow to post-civil war stability in Lebanon.

Sources close to the In-

Middle East? If it's peace and cooperation, that's ok. But people say Israel wants to be the strongest state in the region and control the economy."

"Talk like this makes all the countries in the region afraid. The mutual trust gets lost," he said.

"Maybe you'll keep these ideas a bit to yourselves and not try to accelerate the peace? It's better to build trust rather than sow doubts about the future," Mr. Mubarak advised.

The U.S. State Department meanwhile confirmed that Washington had warned Syria that it will be held responsible for Palestinian threats against U.S. citizens and property.

Spokesman Nicholas Burns confirmed a report in the Washington Post Wednesday revealing that Secretary of State Warren Christopher had earlier this month asked the U.S. ambassador in Damascus to convey the message to the Syrians.

"We are confident that the message referred to in the newspaper article this morning has been received and understood by a variety of parties," Mr. Burns said.

"I'm not going to get into the details of our diplomatic exchanges, especially when a major newspaper has been able to produce a diplomatic message that was not intended to ... appear in that major newspaper," Mr. Burns said.

But I can say this — that we take very seriously any potential threat to American citizens anywhere. And we consider it important that any individual or group that may be tempted to take such actions understand fully the consequences of doing so," he said.

Abbash group. It was largely funded by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the 1970s. It shifted allegiance to Syria in the early 1990s and steadily grew into an influential political force.

Interior Minister Michel Murr told reporters Thursday that the assassin had fled into an area to which "Lebanese police had no access in the past."

"But we're trying to get in to grab them," he said, without elaborating.

The government, which has been struggling to enforce security in the aftermath of the 1975-90 civil war, admits to a few remaining loopholes in some Beirut suburbs like Palestinian refugee camps.

The Ahbash called for a day of mourning Friday. Cars decked with Halabi's portraits toured the streets of Beirut with loudspeakers blaring rhymed verses of the Koran.

The Ahbash are separate from Hezbollah, the standard-bearer of Iran's brand of Shiite Muslim fundamentalism.

However, Hezbollah joined a nationwide denunciation of Halabi's assassination, calling it in a statement a "crime masterminded by Israel's secret service to sow dissension in Lebanon and discredit Syria's peacekeeping role."

Asked what they would do

League to monitor Algerian elections

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary General Esma' Abu Meguid will go to Algeria next week to discuss the league's participation in the supervision of upcoming presidential elections there, an official said Friday.

"It will be the first time that the Arab League has participated in the supervision of presidential elections," a league official said.

The Algerian government has also asked the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to participate in the monitoring of the presidential election, scheduled for Nov. 16.

Dr. Abdul Meguid will begin a three-day visit to Algeria on Tuesday and meet with Algerian President Lamine Zeroual and other senior officials.

The league official added the organisation had been asked by the Algerian government in July to help monitor the elections. The Arab League accepted "out of its concern to consolidate the constitutional legality in that country."

Algerian leaders pledged Friday to press ahead with presidential elections despite an escalating campaign of violence by militants who have vowed to stop the poll.

A suicide bomber struck Thursday in Algiers killing at least nine people and wounding more than 100 in an attack on the national police headquarters.

It was the latest in a rash of

attacks which have left a trail of carnage in Algeria as militants step up their fight against the country's military-backed government.

Algerian Radio said Friday two men drove a car packed with 100 kilogrammes of explosives towards the direction Generale de la Surete Nationale in the capital's Mohammad Ounouri square.

But police fired at them and threw a painting over a wall, forcing them to change direction towards the Lycee Abd al-Kader school.

The bomb later went off in the Muslim fundamentalist stronghold of Bab Al Oued, killing nine people and wounding 104.

The final circumstances of the explosion were not clear. It was not clear if the men themselves detonated the bomb, or if they were among the nine killed.

The Algerian state-run radio on Friday quoted health authorities as saying that 88 of the wounded have gone home after being treated at hospitals.

President Zeroual, who rushed to the scene immediately after the attack, blamed "terrorists."

The attack was the latest in a growing number of car-bombs blamed by the authorities on Islamic fundamentalists.

More than 30,000 people are estimated to have been killed in violence during the country's three-year-old civil strife.

Ethiopia says Sudan refusing to hand over Mubarak assailants

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia on Friday accused the Sudanese government of sheltering three Egyptian gunmen wanted for attempting to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June and announced a series of measures against Khartoum.

The U.S. State Department meanwhile confirmed that Washington had warned Syria that it will be held responsible for Palestinian threats against U.S. citizens and property.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the Khartoum government was sheltering Egyptian gunmen Mustafa Hamza, Izzat Yassin and Hussein Ahmad, alias Siraj, who left Ethiopia after the assassination attempt on June 26.

Mr. Mubarak escaped unharmed when gunmen fired on his limousine as he arrived for an Organisation of African Unity summit. Friday's statement was the first time Ethiopia had linked Khartoum to the attack.

The statement said the

32% of settlers ready to move in return for compensation -- poll

The Jerusalem Post

THIRTY-TWO per cent of settlers would be willing to leave their communities if offered "reasonable" compensation, while 26 per cent would stay in the settlements under any conditions. 29 per cent said they would remain if the security remains in the hands of the IDF. 25 per cent would prefer moving within the Green Line, 8 per cent would move to another settlement in the territories, less than 1 per cent said they would leave the country, and the rest were not undecided.

The telephone survey, which studied settler attitudes toward their future, the peace process, and whether they would be willing to move, was conducted on August 17 among a representative sample of 419 Jews in the territories. The margin of error is 4.9 per cent.

Asked "if you would be willing to leave the settlement with your family for reasonable compensation," 15 per cent said they would "surely" be willing, and another 17 per cent said they "think they would." By contrast, 59 per cent said either they would surely not, or do, not think they would be willing to leave for compensation.

The rest were either undecided or refused to answer.

The poll found that willingness to leave is greater the further the settlements are from Jerusalem. In places such as Ariel, Emmanuel, Alfei Menashe, and Kiryat Arba.

Dr. Ella Heller, who carried out the survey, wrote that the settlers can be divided into 30 per cent who are considered "soft," whose motivations for moving to the territories were not ideological, and who would be willing to leave, and a hard core of 31 per cent who are ideologically motivated and will not be willing to leave for compensation. Everyone else falls somewhere in between.

Asked what they would do